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WESTERN AMERICANA

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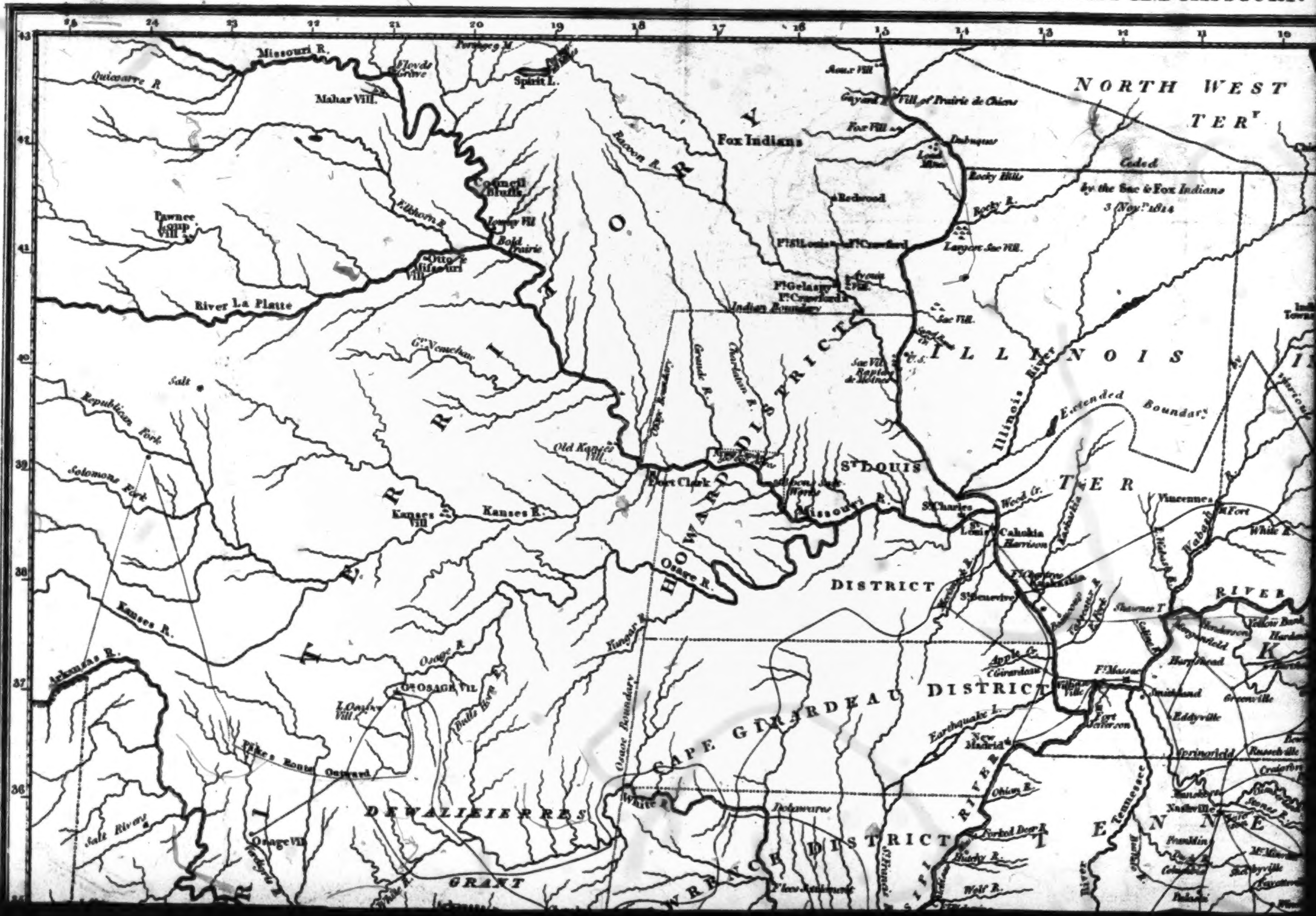
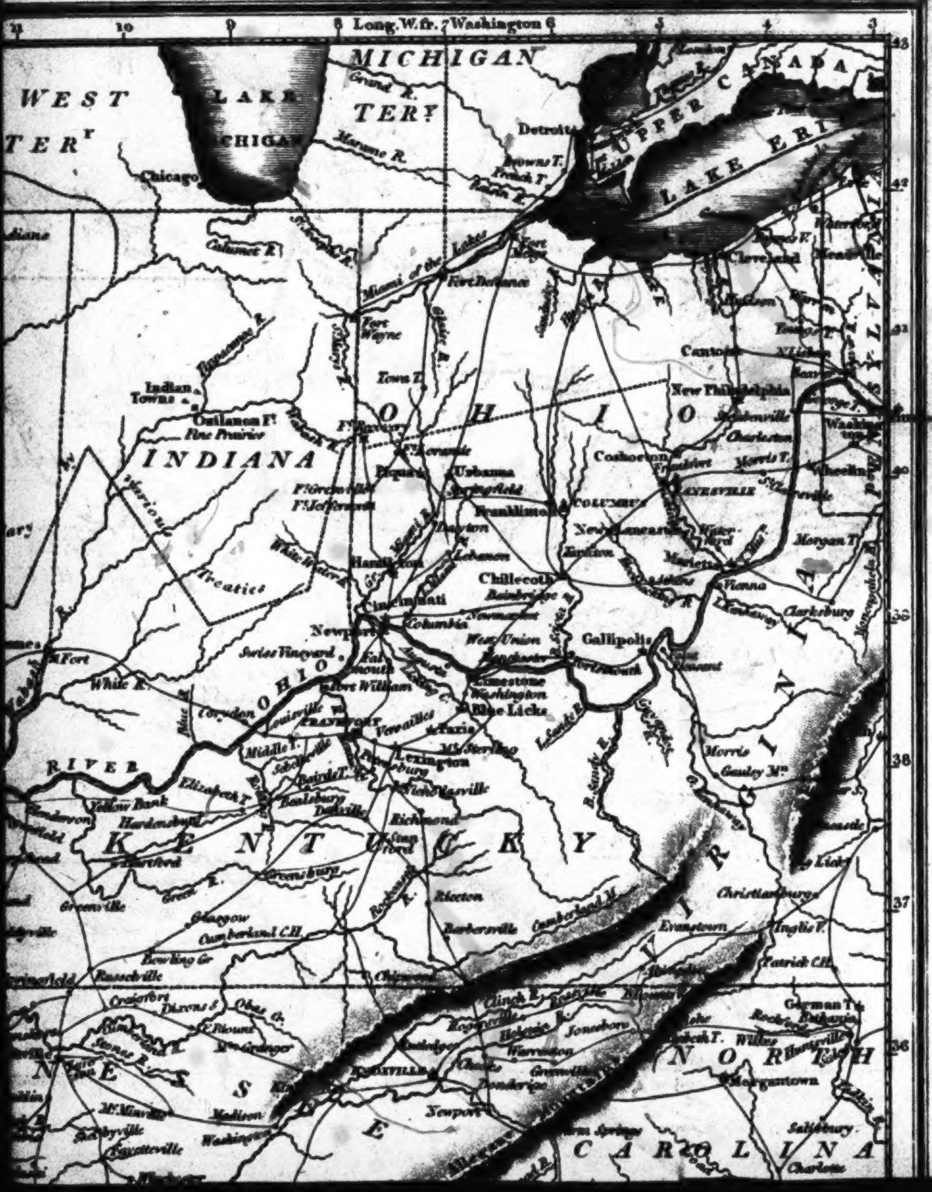
COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE MISSISSIPI AND MISSOURI.



NORTH WEST TER^Y
Missouri R.
Quicurre R.
Mahar Vill.
Floyds Grave
Spirit L.
Fox Indians
Vill. of Prairie de Chiens
Dubuques
Lead Mines
Rocky Hills
Coded by the Sac & Fox Indians 3 Nov^r 1814
Redwood
Council Bluffs
Pawnee Loup Vill.
Elkhorn R.
Otto & Missouri Vill.
Bold Prairie
River La Platte
Indian Boundary
ILLINOIS
Illinois River
Extended Boundary
Salt
Republican Fork
Solomons Fork
Old Kanzes Vill.
Fort Clark
S^T LOUIS
S^t Charles
Cahokia
Harrison
Missouri R.
Kanzes Vill.
Kanzes R.
Osage R.
HOWARD DISTRICT
DISTRICT
S^t Genevieve
Kaskaskia
Vincennes
Wabash R.
White R.
RIVER
Shawnee T.
Osage Boundary
Arkansas R.
G^t OSAGE VIL
L. Osage Vill.
Pikes Route Outward
CAPE GIRARDEAU DISTRICT
C. Girardeau
Earthquake L.
New Madrid
F^t Massac
Fort Jefferson
Smithland
Eddyville
Hopkinsville
Greenville
DEWALIEIERRES
White R.
Delaware
ARKANSAS DISTRICT
GRANT
Salt River
Osage Vil.
Tennessee
RIVER
Forked Deer R.
Nashville
Franklin
TERRITORY
MISSISSIPI
TENNESSEE

ISSOURI. VOL.III.N°.V.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Grand R.
Maumee R.
Calumet R.
Fort Wayne
Fort Defiance
Fort Meigs
Miami of the Lakes
Cleveland
Canton
New Philadelphia
Steubenville
Charleston
Wheeling
Washington
Pittsburg
Coshocton
Zanesville
Columbus
Franklinton
Springfield
Urbana
Piqua
Dayton
Lebanon
Hamilton
Cincinnati
Chillecothe
New Lancaster
Marietta
Gallipolis
Clarksburg
Morgan T.
Vienna
West Union
Manchester
Newport
Columbia
Indian Towns
Ouitanon Ft.
Fine Prairie
INDIANA
OHIO
Ft. Greenville
Ft. Jefferson
Swiss Vineyard
White R.
Corydon
Louisville
Frankfort
Versailles
Lexington
Paris
Limestone
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Blue Licks
Mt. Sterling
Harrodsburg
Danville
Richmond
Middle T.
Shelbyville
Bairds T.
Bardstown
Elizabeth T.
Yellow Bank
Hardensburg
Hartford
Greensburg
Greenville
Glasgow
Cumberland C.H.
Bowling Gr.
Russelville
Barbersville
Cumberland M.
KENTUCKY
RIVER OHIO
Morris
Gauley Mn.
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Evanstown
Abingdon
Patrick C.H.
German T.
Rogersville
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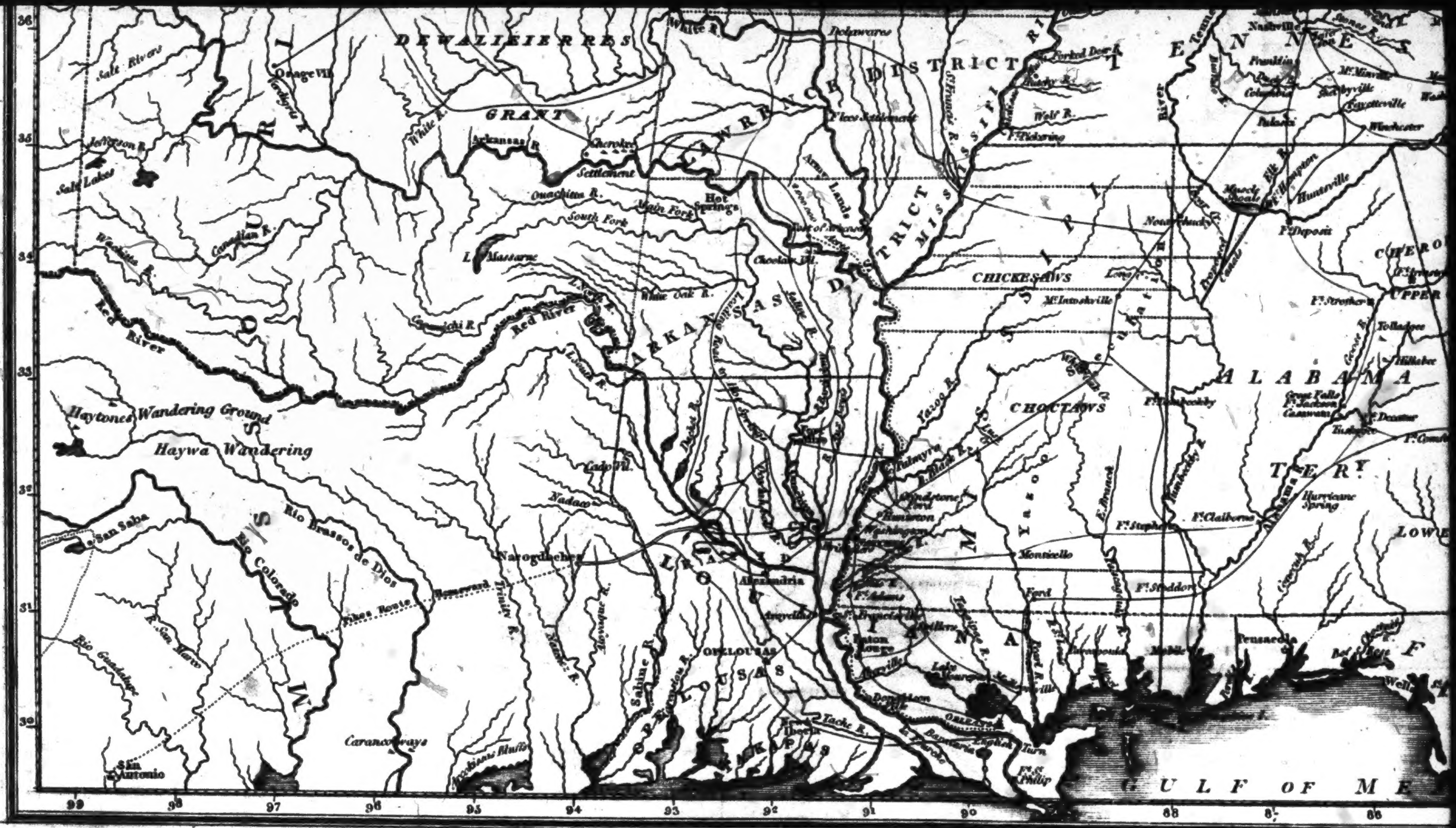
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TERY
CHICKESAWS
CHOCTAWS
LOUISIANA
OPELOUSAS
ATTAKAPAS
Haytones Wandering Ground
Haywa Wandering
Red River
Rio Brassos de Dios
Rio Colorado
Rio Guadaloupe
Trinity R.
Sabine R.
Nacogdoches
San Antonio
Alexandria
Natchez
Baton Rouge
Mobile
Pensacola
Nashville
Huntsville
Hot Springs
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Ft. Stephens
Ft. Claiborne
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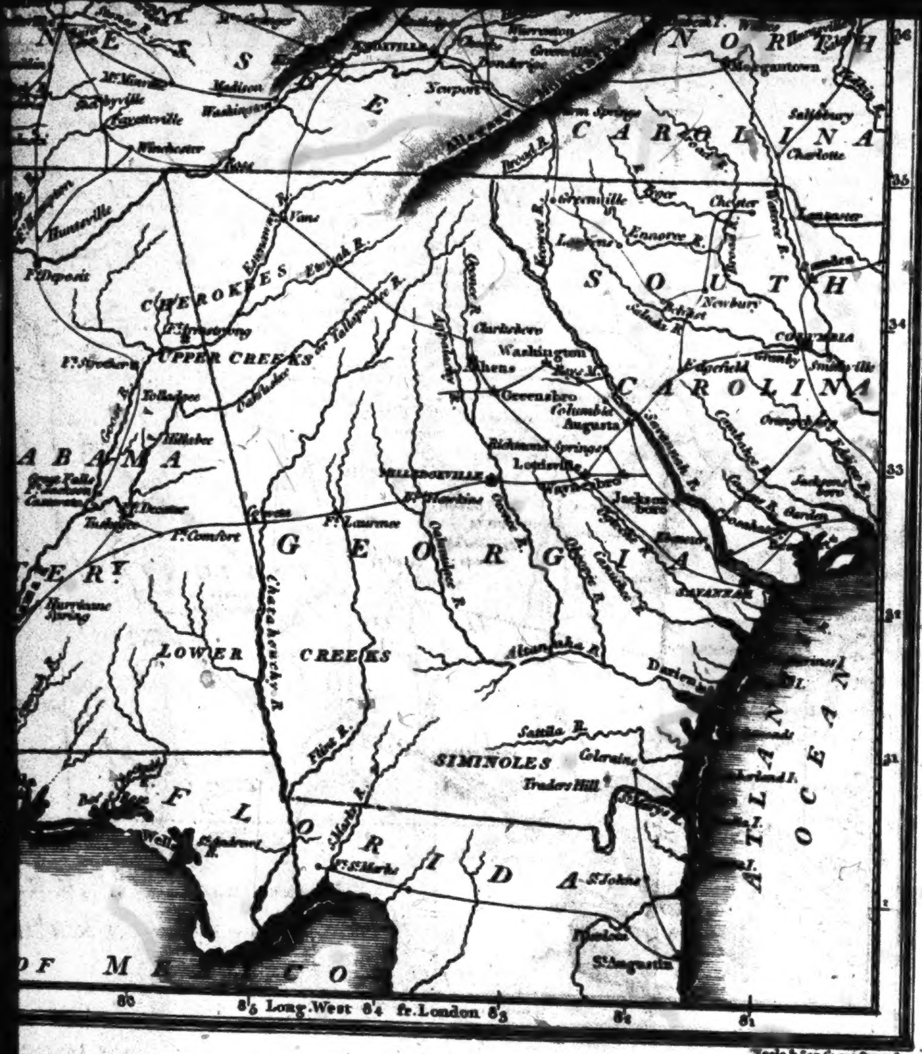
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
FLORIDA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
OF MEXICO
CHEROKEES
UPPER CREEKS
LOWER CREEKS
SIMINOLES
Knoxville
Morgantown
Salisbury
Charlotte
Greenville
Chester
Laurens
Newbury
Columbia
Granby
Edgefield
Orangeburg
Jacksonboro
Clarksboro
Washington
Athens
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Columbia
Augusta
Richmond Springs
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Milledgeville
Waynesboro
Jacksonboro
Savannah
Darien
Coleraine
Traders Hill
St. Marks
St. Johns
St. Augustin
Huntsville
Ft. Deposit
Ft. Strother
Tallasee
Hillabee
Ft. Decatur
Tuskegee
Ft. Comfort
Ft. Laurens
Ft. Hawkins
Hurricane Spring
Chatahouchy R.
Flint R.
Oakmulgee R.
Oconee R.
Ogechee R.
Alatamaha R.
Satilla R.
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JOURNAL

OF

A TOUR

INTO

THE INTERIOR OF MISSOURI AND ARKANSAW,

FROM

Potosi, or Mine à Burton, in Missouri Territory, in a South-West
Direction, toward the Rocky Mountains;

PERFORMED IN THE YEARS 1818 AND 1819.

By HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR SIR RICHARD PHILLIPS AND Co.
BRIDE-COURT, BRIDGE-STREET; AND TO BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1821.

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TOUR

INTO THE

INTERIOR OF MISSOURI,

IN THE YEARS 1818 AND 1819.

Potosi, Thursday, 5th Nov. 1818.

I BEGIN my tour where other travellers have ended theirs, on the confines of the wilderness, and at the last village of white inhabitants, between the Mississippi river and the Pacific Ocean. I have passed down the valley of the Ohio, and across the state of Illinois, in silence! I am now at the mines of Missouri, at the village of Mine à Burton, (now called Potosi,) and surrounded by its mineral hills and smoking furnaces. Potosi is the seat of justice for Washington county, Missouri territory, and is situated forty miles west of St. Genevieve, and about sixty south-west of St. Louis, the capital. It occupies a delightful valley, of small extent, through which a stream of the purest water meanders, dividing the village into two portions of nearly equal extent. This valley is bordered by hills of primitive limestone, rising in some places in rugged peaks; in others, covered with trees, and grouped and interspersed with cultivated farms, in such a manner as to give the village a pleasing and picturesque appearance. It contains seventy buildings, exclusive of a court-house, a jail, an academy, a post-office, one saw, and two grist mills, and a number of temporary buildings necessary in the smelting of lead. In its vicinity is found a considerable tract of very fertile land, and a lively interest is manifested to the pursuits of agriculture; but the trade of Potosi is chiefly in lead, which is, in a great degree, the medium of exchange, as furs and peltries formerly were in certain parts of the Atlantic states. Very great quantities of lead are annually made at this place, and waggoned across the country to the banks of the Mississippi, a distance of forty miles, for shipment. It is estimated that, from the year 1798 to 1816, 9,360,000 pounds of lead were smelted here. There are about forty mines in this vicinity. The price of lead is 4 per cwt. in the pig. The ore worked is galena, or sulphuret of lead, which is found in abundance, and smelts very easily, yielding from sixty to seventy per cent. of metallic lead in the large way. It is found in alluvial soil, along with sulphate of barytes, radiated quartz, and pyrites, and also in veins in primitive limestone.

Friday, Nov. 6th.

Having completed the necessary preparations, I left Potosi at three o'clock, P. M., accompanied by Mr. Levi Pettibone, being both armed with guns, and clothed and equipped in the manner of the hunter, and leading a pack-horse, who carried our baggage, consisting of skins to cover us at night, some provisions, an axe, a few cooking utensils, &c. On walking out of the village of Potosi, on the south-west, we immediately commenced ascending a series of hills, which are the seat of the principal mines, winding along among pits, heaps of gravel, and spars, and other rubbish constantly accumulating at the mines, where scarcely ground enough has been left undisturbed for the safe passage of the traveller, who is constantly kept in peril by unseen excavations, and falling-in pits. The surface of the mine-hills is, in fact, completely perforated in all directions, although most of the pits have not been continued more than twenty or thirty feet below the surface, where the rock has opposed a barrier to the further progress of the miner. On reaching the summit of these hills, we turned to survey the beautiful prospect behind us, the valley of Potosi, with its village and stream, the cultivated fields on its borders, the calcareous hills crowned with oaks beyond, with the distant furnaces smoking through the trees, and the wide-spread ruins at our feet. A deep blue sky hung above us; the atmosphere was clear and pure, with a gentle breeze from the south-west, which, passing through the dried leaves of the trees, scattered them over the valley we had left, and murmured a pensive farewell. We turned to pursue our way with such feelings as many travellers have experienced on turning their backs upon the comforts and endearments of life, to encounter fatigue, hard fare, and danger. On travelling three miles from this spot, we arrived at a deserted Indian cabin on the banks of a small stream called Bates' Creek, where we determined to encamp for the night.

Saturday, Nov. 7th.

As we are unacquainted with the hunter's art of travelling in the woods, we shall necessarily encounter some difficulties from our want of experience, which a hunter himself would escape. We find it necessary to gain a knowledge of things, of which we before knew nothing, and in which we had not any experience, such is the art of hobbling a horse properly, with safety to ourselves, and without injury to him—the best method of building a camp fire—how to cook a piece of venison, or boil a pot of coffee, &c. Such are now the objects which will engross our daily attention, and to excel in which becomes a point of ambitious exertion. An instance of our inexperience in these particulars occurred this morning. Our horse, owing to a defect in hobbling, went astray during the night, and we consumed the day until 10 o'clock, in hunting him up, when we repacked our baggage, and continued our way in a south-west direction toward the Fourche à Courtois. After travelling fourteen miles, the day being nearly spent, we arrived at an inhabited cabin, and obtained permission to remain for the night. Our path this day has lain across an elevated ridge of land, covered with yellow pine, and strewed with fragments of sandstone, quartz, and a species of coarse flinty jasper, the soil being sterile, and the vegetation scanty. The weather has been mild, and very pleasant for the season, with an unclouded sky, and light breeze from the south-west. General course of travelling west-south-west. Distance, fourteen miles.

Sunday, Nov. 8th.

In travelling two miles this morning, we found ourselves on the banks of the Fourche à Courtois, a considerable stream, and one of the principal tributaries of the Merrimack river. The Fourche à Courtois originates in high lands near the head of the river St. Francis, and after running in a serpentine course for sixty miles, through a sterile country, unites with the Merrimack 100 miles from its mouth. Its banks, at the place we crossed, afford some very rich lands, but they do not extend far, consisting merely of a strip of alluvion running parallel with the river, and bordered by hills, whose stony aspect forbids the approach of the farmer. On this stream are settled several persons, who divide their time between hunting and farming. The district of tillable land is much more extensive, however, than has generally been supposed, and is capable of supporting a considerable population, which will, eventually enhance the agricultural character and importance of that part of Washington county. We had proceeded but a short distance beyond the Fourche à Courtois, when the barking of dogs in a contiguous forest, announced our approach to a hunter's cabin, where we halted to inquire respecting the Indian trace to the country of the Osages, which we were informed ran in the direction we were travelling, and might be pursued for sixty or seventy miles with advantage. The owner of the cabin was not himself in when we first arrived, but his wife very readily gave us every information respecting the direction of the trace, the streams we were to cross, the game we might expect to find for our subsistence, and other particulars, evincing a perfect acquaintance with the subject, adding, that it was dangerous travelling in that quarter on account of the Osages, who never failed to rob and plunder those who fell in their way, and often carried them in captivity to their villages, on the Grand Osage river. She said her husband had contemplated going out on a hunt into that quarter for several days, but was fearful of going alone lest he should fall in with a party of those Indians; but she thought he would be willing to accompany us a part of the way, and advised us to await his return from the woods, as he had only gone a short distance to kill some turkey. While we were waiting his return, she continued to repeat several incidents of robberies and murders committed by the Osages, and unusual hardships which had been encountered in the woods by her husband and others. She told us, also, that our guns were not well adapted to our journey; that we should have rifles; and pointed out some other errors in our dress, equipments, and mode of travelling, while we stood in astonishment to hear a woman direct us in matters which we had before thought the peculiar and exclusive province of men. While thus engaged the husband entered, and readily agreed to our proposal, to accompany us toward White River, where he represented the game to exist in great abundance. In a few moments he was ready. Putting three or four large cakes of corn-bread in a sack, and shouldering a rifle, he mounted his horse, and we all set forward together, mutually pleased with the reciprocal benefits expected from travelling in company. Our path, for the first four miles, lay across a succession of sterile ridges, thinly covered with oaks, when we suddenly descended into the valley of the Osage Fork of the Merrimack, a stream equal in size to the Fourche à Courtois, and having extensive prairies all along its banks. On this stream we passed through a small village of Delaware Indians, who are now all out hunting, except the old men, women, and children.

Four miles below the spot where we crossed this stream, is situated a large village of the Shawanees, and three miles above is another settlement of Delawares.

On leaving the valley of Osage Fork, we immediately entered on a hilly barren tract, covered with high grass, and here and there clumps of oak-trees. Soil poor, and covered with fragments of jaspery flint, horn-stone, quartz, and detached masses of carbonate of lime. Such, indeed, has been the character of the small stones under foot from Potosi, but the ledges breaking out on hill sides have uniformly been limestone, stratum upon stratum.

We encamped after dark in a small valley near a spring. Distance eleven miles.

Monday, Nov. 9th.

The sleep of the hunter is not sound, neither is his vigilance to be eluded; and the anxiety he is kept in, from the fear of the Indian on the one hand, and the approach of wild animals on the other, produces constant wakefulness during the night. His horse and baggage also demand occasional notice during the darkness of night, and he lies down with his rifle in his arms, to be prepared for emergencies. An instance of this vigilance occurred last night, and prevented a loss which would, in our situation, have been irreparable. Our pack-horse, who, as usual, was turned loose to graze, accompanied by that of the hunter, strayed off from our camp, but was not long gone, when missed by Roberts, (the hunter,) who awoke me, and we pursued, and overtook them about three miles off, and brought them back to camp before day-light. All this serves to increase our caution; and the farther we proceed, the more serious would be any loss we might sustain, either in our horse, guns, locks, ammunition, or any other article necessary to our safety or subsistence. During the night we had several times been disturbed by the approach of elk and deer, and as soon as the day dawned, Roberts went out a short distance and killed a fine fat doe, which he brought in on his shoulders, and we made a breakfast, for the first time, on roasted deer's meat, with appetites sharpened by exercise, which, while it invigorates the body, as we experience, increases its alimentary capacities. Our route this day has been over barrens and prairies, with occasional forests of oak, the soil poor, and covered with grass, with very little under-brush. As evening approached we entered the valley of Merrimack, which we followed up for several miles, and encamped in a prairie near its source. Some good bottom lands are found on its banks, but the adjoining hills are stony and barren, covered with little timber and high grass. Within a mile of its banks, on the Indian trace, we passed over large beds of iron ore, accompanied by the black oxyd of manganese, specimens of which I take along. The Merrimack is the only considerable stream which enters the Mississippi on the west from the mouth of the Missouri to the mouth of St. Francis, a distance of nearly 500 miles. It is 200 miles in length, and joins the Mississippi, eighteen miles below St. Louis, where it is 200 yards in width. Its depth is not great, being only navigable fifty miles with common-sized boats, except in the spring and fall, when its principal tributaries may be ascended. It waters the country of the lead-mines, and affords some facilities for the transportation of lead to the Mississippi, which do not appear to be generally known or appreciated, and have not been improved.

The weather this day has been mild and pleasant, with a light breeze from the south-west, and a smoky atmosphere. Course of travelling south-west, until we struck the Merrimack; then due south, to the place of our encampment. Distance eighteen miles.

Tuesday, Nov. 10th.

We packed our horse this morning at day-light, nothwithstanding the rain which commenced last evening, and continued at intervals during the night. On travelling about ten miles, we left the Osage trace, which began to diverge too far north, and struck through the woods in a south course, with a view of reaching a large saltpetre cave known to exist in that quarter. Shortly after we quit the Indian trace, Roberts, who was in advance on our left about half-a-mile, fired at, and killed a deer, and immediately reloaded his rifle, pursued, and fired again, telling us to continue, as he could easily, being on horseback, overtake us. We accordingly pursued our route until night, and are now encamped on the banks of a small lake, in a prairie containing several small ponds or lakes, not having yet been rejoined by our hunter. One of the greatest inconveniences we experience in travelling in this region, arises from the difficulty of finding, at the proper time, a place of encampment affording wood and water, both of which are indispensable. On this account we find it prudent to encamp early in the afternoon, when we come to a spring of good water, with plenty of wood for fire, and grass for our horse; and, on the contrary, are compelled to travel late at night in order to find them. This is a difficulty which attends us this evening, having been compelled to stop in an open prairie, where wood is very scarce, and the water bad—general course of travelling south—weather pleasant, the rain having ceased shortly after day-light. Lands poor; trees, oaks; game observed, deer and elk. Distance twenty miles.

Wednesday, Nov. 11th.

While lying before our camp-fire last night, the wolves set up their howling, apparently within 200 yards of us. We had already been long enough in the woods, and were sufficiently conversant with the hunter life, to know that this animal will only attack men in cases of the most extreme hunger; and as we knew their common prey, the deer, was abundant in that quarter, we had little apprehension for our safety. We thought it prudent, however, to be on the watch; a thing, indeed, which we did almost every night, particularly when the cold was such as to render it necessary to keep up a fire. In these cases we slept and watched alternately, as well from a regard to safety as to mend our fire. Such, however, was the fatigue of a day's long march, that we both fell into a sound sleep for the greater part of the night, and found our fire nearly out, and ourselves chilled with cold when we awoke, the wolves being still on an adjacent hill. A short time before day-light we arose, renewed our fire, and prepared breakfast, and commenced our journey at an early hour, holding a south course across the prairie of Little Lakes. At the distance of two miles we passed a stream running south-east, and originating in the prairie of lakes. Ducks are in great plenty on this stream as well as upon the lakes. I take this to be the origin of Black River. Our route lay for the first eight miles across a barren prairie country, with little wood and no water; we then entered into lofty forests of pine, and after winding along through valleys and deep defiles of rocks for several miles, found ourselves on the banks of Current's River, in a deep and romantic valley, the soil rich, and covered with a heavy growth of trees.

Current's River is one of the principal tributaries of Black River, and is a stream of 250 miles in length, and affords, in its whole course, extensive bodies of fertile land. Near its junction with Black River, about 200 miles below, are several settlements, and a ferry is kept ten miles above its mouth, where the Arkansaw road crosses it, and where a town is in contemplation. The waters of this stream are very clear and pure, and ducks are very common upon it. The wild turkey and grey squirrel are also seen on its banks. Five miles beyond Current's, night overtook us, and we encamped on the banks of a creek, near Ashley's salt-petre cave, in a dark, narrow, and lonesome little valley, where the rocks hung in terrific piles above our heads. Course of travelling south-west. Weather mild and smoky. Distance twenty miles.

Thursday, Nov. 12th.

We find ourselves in a highly interesting section of country, and which affords some of the most picturesque and sublime views of rural scenery which I have ever beheld. The little brush camp we hastily erected last night, and in which I now write, is situated in a beautiful valley, on the banks of a small clear stream, with a rocky and gravelly bottom. The width of this valley is about 800 yards, and is bounded on the west by a perpendicular wall of limestone rock 200 feet in height, and rising in some places in cubical masses, resembling the mouldering towers of some antique ruin. On the east the bluffs are neither so high nor precipitous, and are intersected by hollows worn out of the rock by the action of rain operating, for many centuries, on calcareous rock. Down one of these hollows we descended into the valley, not, however, without leading our horse in the most cautious and circuitous manner. The top of these bluffs supports a substratum of a very sterile, gravelly alluvion, and is covered by tall pines, which add much to the beauty of the prospect from the valley below. In the stupendous wall of rocks before me are situated several caves, whose dark and capacious mouths indicate their extent. Many of these, however, cannot be visited without ladders, as they are situated forty or fifty feet above the level of the creek. With considerable difficulty and labour we entered one of them, by means of a large oak which had fallen partly against the mouth of the cave. We found it a spacious chamber, connected with others of less size, and affording both *stalactites*, and *stalagmites*. The former hang like icicles from the roof in various fanciful forms, and some specimens which we succeeded in detaching were translucent, and exhibited much beauty and regularity in the arrangement of their colours, consisting of concentric lines of yellow and brown passing by imperceptible shades into each other. We also obtained in this cave native salt-petre, very white and beautiful. It was found filling small crevices in the rock. The number of caves which we have this day visited, large and small, is seven, and all afford salt-petre. In the largest of these, great quantities of this article are annually collected and manufactured by Col. Ashley, of Mine à Burton, and transported to his powder-manufactory, in Washington county. The cavernous nature of the country bordering this stream is one of its most distinguishing characteristics, and I have seized upon this fact in calling it Cave Creek. This little stream is one of the most interesting objects in the natural physiognomy of the country, which we have thus far met with, and affords a striking instance of that wonderful arrangement in the physical construction of the surface of the earth, which gives vallies to the smallest streams, and tears asunder rocks to allow them passages into rivers, and through them into their common basin, the ocean. Its banks rise in majestic walls of limestone, which would form the most ample barrier to the waves of the sea, and they occasionally rise into peaks, which if located on the coast of the ocean, would be hailed as landmarks by the mariner. The opposite banks correspond with general exactness in their curves, height, composition, and thickness of strata, and other characters evincing their connexion at a former period. Yet the only object apparently effected by the separation of such immense strata of rocks, a change which I cannot now contemplate without awe and astonishment, is to allow a stream of twenty yards across a level and undisturbed passage into the adjacent river, the Currents, which it joins, after winding in the most circuitous manner about four miles below. In the course of this distance, the views which are presented are commanding and delightful, and to the painter who wishes to depict the face of nature in its wildest aspect of rocky grandeur, I could recommend this valley, and the adjacent county, as one of unrivalled attractions. A scene so full of interest could not fail to receive the homage of our admiration, and we rambled about the country, until night almost imperceptibly approached, when we returned to our camp, repacked our horse, and moved up the valley of Cave Creek, one mile to Ashley Cave, in which we encamped safe from the weather, turning our horse loose to feed about its mouth. We had just built our night-fire as it became dark, and while I spread out our skins and prepared for sleep, Mr. P. boiled our accustomed pot of coffee, and got ready a supper, which, although not consisting of many dishes, or choice cookery, excited our most cordial approbation, and we partook of it with that keen appetite, and that feeling of lordly independence, which are alone felt by the wild Indian, and the half-starved Missouri hunter. Having finished our frugal meal, we determined to explore the cave before we lay down, lest some beast of prey, hid in its recesses, should be aroused by our intrusion, and pounce upon us during the night.

This cave is situated in a high wall of lime-stone rock, forming the southern bank of Cave Creek, eighty miles south-west of Potosi, and near the head of Current's River, one of the principal tributaries of Black River, in Missouri territory. The entrance to it is by a winding foot-path from the banks of the creek, and leads to the mouth of the cave at an elevation of about fifty feet above the level of the water. Its mouth is about ninety feet wide and thirty in height, a size which, without great variation, it holds for two hundred yards. Here it suddenly opens into a room which is an irregular circle, with a height of eighty or ninety feet, and a diameter of three hundred, having several passages diverging from it in various directions. The two largest passages lead south-west and south, and after winding along a considerable distance, in the course of which they are successively widened and narrowed, unite and lead on in a south course about five hundred yards, where the passage is choaked up by large masses of stalactite, formed by the water which has filtered through the superincumbent rock at that place. The largest passage from the circular amphitheatre of the cave diverging north, opens by another mouth in the rock, facing the valley of Cave Creek, at no great distance below the principal mouth by which we entered. Several smaller passages diverge from each of the main ones, but cannot be followed to any great extent, or are shut up by fragments of the fallen rock. Near the centre of the largest opening, a handsome spring of clear water issues, from which we procured our water while encamped in the cave.

The ragged faces and hanging position of many parts of the sides and roof of this cave, added to its sombre colour, which has been heightened by soot smoke, its great extent, singular ramifications, and the death-like stillness which pervades such ample spaces situated so far below ground, inspire both wonder and awe, and we did not return from our examination, without feeling impressions in regard to our own origin, nature, and end, and the mysterious connection between the Creator of these stupendous works and ourselves, which many have before felt, but none have yet been satisfied about. In contemplating this connection, we feel humiliated; human reason has no clue by which the mystery may be solved, and we imperceptibly became silent, absorbed in our own reflections. Such at least was the effect produced in this instance, and we returned to trim our night-fire and go to sleep, with the taciturnity of the American savage.

Friday, Nov. 13th.

The atmosphere threatening rain this morning, we did not think proper to quit the cave, and have divided our time between hunting, mending our clothes, and noticing the geological character of the adjacent region. In hunting large game we are not very successful; our guns, as we were informed by the hunter's wife at Fourche à Courtois, not being adapted to killing deer and bear. Of wild Turkey, ducks, and squirrels, we, however, kill a plenty, to answer our purposes, and we do not seek any thing farther. The most remarkable fact respecting the cave in which we are encamped, is the nitre which it yields. This is found in the native state, filling small crevices in the rock, and also in combination with the earth which forms the bottom of the cave. The nitre is formed by mixing this earth with a certain quantity of wood ashes, and lixiviating the whole in the common way by means of a tub and fasset. The potash of the wood-ashes is necessary to enable the salt to form, and the whole is then concentrated by boiling in a kettle, and afterwards set aside to cool and to crystallize. In this way the crude nitre is obtained, which may be brought to any required state of purity by redissolving and recrystallizing.

The works which have been erected by Colonel Ashley for this purpose are all situated in the mouth of the cave, so as to be completely protected from the weather. No person is, however, here at the present to attend to his business, and the works appear to have lain idle for some time. Large quantities of crude salt-petre are lying in the fore part of the cave.

The earth found in this cave, and which is now so highly charged with nitrous salts, presents an extraordinary circumstance for the consideration of the geologist, and one which must be conclusive in regard to the antiquity of the cave itself. This earth is a mixture of clay and sand in rather gross particles, but has sufficient tenacity to adhere in lumps when dug up, and contains plentifully interspersed pebbles of quartz, slate, granite, and other stones, and also fragments of horn-stone, or a kind of flint. It is in fact precisely the same kind of earth, deposited in the same manner, and mixed with the same stony substances, as the alluvion deposit which covers all the adjoining hills, and has constituted the soil of all the uplands from Potosi; nay, from the west banks of the Mississippi river to this place. The conclusion is irresistible, that this cavity in the rock existed previous to the deposition of the substratum of the soil upon the calcareous rock of this country, and, consequently, previous to the existence of trees or vegetation of any kind, unless it be of certain mosses and lichens which flourish upon naked rocks. And that when this soil was deposited, the cave in which we now sit, a preexisting cavity in the rock, was also filled, partly or entirely, with the alluvion now found in it. The greater part of this alluvion has been subsequently washed out, and the cavity thus re-opened by water filtering through its calcareous roof, leaving certain parts on the bottom, and huge piles in several places, not situated in the current of the stream, remaining. This operation has not, indeed, wholly ceased at the present time, for the water is continually carrying down small particles of earth into the valley below, and the effect must be more perceptible after violent or long-continued rain, when the earth becomes soaked, and the infiltration of water is consequently greatly increased.

This opinion is further corroborated by observing that the sides and the root of the cave, and the several passages leading from it, are water-worn, and full of smooth circular cavities like the rocky margin of the sea, or the calcareous banks of a river, and evince the force of a more powerful action than would probably be excited from any springs or streams which issue, or have ever issued from the cave. It is highly probable, therefore, that these impressions are oceanic, and existed previous to the cave's being filled with alluvial earth, and were made by that deluge of water which geologists teach us has repeatedly inundated the earth in its primeval ages, and which we have the authority of Moses for declaring did inundate the earth as late as the days of Noah.

The geological character of the country in this vicinity is secondary; the rock formations, far and wide, being secondary limestone, stratum super-stratum. This has, indeed, characterized our route from Potosi to this place, with the exception of a vein of sand-stone, which alternates with it near the Fourche à Courtois. Its mineralogical character has consequently presented a corresponding uniformity, and the actual number of species and varieties of minerals found is small. Ores of iron and manganese, pyrites, quartz, horn-stone, and jasper, are the principal substances noticed. The last-mentioned mineral is found in the west bank of Cave Creek, about a mile below our present encampment. It occurs as a stratum below secondary lime-stone, by which it is overlayed to the thickness of at least 100 feet. It is the striped variety, the colours being blue and white, of various shades.

Saturday, Nov. 14th.

A rain-storm which commenced during the night, has continued with little intermission, all day, so that we have been confined to the cave. Thus situated, beyond the boundaries of the civilized world, shut up in a dreary cavern, without books to amuse the mind, or labour to occupy the body, we have had ample leisure to reflect upon the solitude of our condition, and in reverting to the scenes of polished life, to contrast its comforts, attractions, and enjoyments, with the privations and danger by which we are surrounded. There springs, however, a pleasure from our very regrets; we are pleased in reflecting on scenes of former gratification; of lands that are distant, and of times that are past: and the mind is insensibly led to hope for their repetition. We expect much of the future time; we please ourselves with fond anticipations of joy, and with proud hopes of wealth, power, or renown. Thus it is that the mind is never in a state of satisfied repose, and the whole sum of human bliss is made up by the recollections we borrow from the past, and the expectations we entertain of the future. The present is never a season of happiness, which is a relative enjoyment, and can only be estimated by its absence. Neither are our ideas of this grand pursuit of our lives at all definite. Nothing can be more discordant and contradictory than the different notions which different persons or people have attached to the term happiness. One places it in wealth, another in power, a third in splendour, and a fourth in the contempt of all. Perhaps the sum of human bliss was as correctly estimated by the South Sea Indian, as it is frequently done by his more enlightened European brethren. A South Sea Indian becoming tired of life, put an end to it, by stabbing himself to the heart. The deed excited universal horror, and the grief of his family was uncontrolable. "Alas," cried a relative, "what evil spirit could have prompted him to this deed! He was blessed beyond many of his countrymen. Had he not always plenty of train-oil for his subsistence? Had he not a smooth white fish-bone, twelve inches long, run through his nose? What more could be wanting to complete his happiness?"

We have been in the expectation, for several days, of being joined by the hunter who accompanied us from the Fourche à Courtois, and who parted with us on the 10th instant, in pursuit of a deer; but night has again overtaken us, and we are again disappointed, from which it is concluded that he has either been taken prisoner by the Osage Indians, or got lost in the woods.*

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* This turned out to be the fact, as we learned upon our return. Having got into a district of wood where deer were plenty, and unwilling to lose the opportunity of killing them, although he wanted neither their flesh or skins, for he could carry neither with him, he fired at, and killed many, and pursued them a great distance from the spot where we parted, and he was unable afterwards to find his way back. He wandered about nearly a week in the woods in search of us, and at last accidentally arrived at the saw-mills on the Gasconade river, the only settlement in that region, from which he returned in safety to his house on the Fourche à Courtois.

Sunday, Nov. 15th.

This morning, the sky being clear, and the weather pleasant, we left the cave, and resumed our journey toward the south-west. On quitting the cave, our design was to turn immediately from the valley of the creek, but we found the hills so precipitous, that we were compelled to pursue up the valley, in a north-west course, for a considerable distance, before an opportunity for leaving it presented. We now entered on a high, rough, and barren tract of country, consisting of a succession of ridges running nearly at right angles to the course we travelled, so that for the first six miles we were continually climbing up slowly to the tops of these lofty heights, or descending with cautious tread into the intervening gulfs—an exercise which we found equally hazardous and fatiguing. For this distance the soil was covered thinly with yellow pine, and shrubby oaks, and with so thick a growth of underbrush as to increase, very much, the labour of travelling. To this succeeded a high-land prairie, with little timber, or underbrush, and covered with grass. We found the travelling upon it very good, although it occasionally presented considerable elevation, and inequalities of surface, and we pursued our way with a pace accelerated by the reflection that we had emerged at last from the region of stony precipices and brambled valleys, through which we had been tearing our way, at the two-fold expence of great bodily fatigue, and such parts of our clothing as were not buckskin. In calling this a high-land prairie, I am to be understood as meaning a tract of high-land generally level, and with very little wood or shrubbery. It is a level woodless barren covered with wild grass, and resembling the natural meadows or prairies of the western country in appearance, but lacks their fertility, their wood, and their remarkable equality of surface. In travelling across such a district of country, we have found little to interest. There are no prominent features in the physiognomy of the country to catch the eye. There is no land-mark in perspective, to which, by travelling, we seem to approach. The unvaried aspect of the country produces satiety. We travelled diligently and silently. Now and then an oak stood in our path; sometimes a cluster of bushes crowned the summit of a sloping hill; the deer frequently bounded on before us; we sometimes disturbed the rabbit from its sheltering bush, or were suddenly startled by the flight of a brood of quails; but there was nothing else to interrupt the silence of our march, or, by exciting fresh interest, to lighten its fatigue. The mineralogy of the country was wholly uninteresting. Its geological character presented great uniformity, the rocks being secondary limestone overlaying sand-stone. In travelling twelve miles we came to the banks of a small stream, (the first running water seen since leaving the cave,) and encamped upon its banks, just as night closed around. Distance eighteen miles.

Monday, Nov. 16th.

Nothing worthy of remark in the physical productions of the country has this day been met with. The face of the country, soil, trees, animals observed, and weather, have presented no character different from what was noticed yesterday.

We quit our encampment at early day-light, taking a due south-west course by the compass. In travelling five miles we came to a stream, running north-west, from which we conclude it is tributary to the Missouri. In fording it, I observed the bottom to be a grey compact of sand-stone, while its banks, in common with all the adjacent region, are secondary lime-stone. This sand-stone appears to be, in fact, the rock upon which the great secondary lime-stone formation of this country rests. It has appeared as the lowest stratum in almost every high bluff, and forming the surface of almost every deep valley, from the banks of the Mississippi at the cornice rock, a little below Herculaneum, to the place of our present encampment, a distance in a south-west course of about 150 miles. How far it extends south and west it is impossible to say. Every appearance tends, however, to justify an opinion, that it reaches far to the west, and that it overlays those primitive rocks which are supposed to extend eastwardly from the rocky mountains. Four miles beyond this stream we arrived on the banks of another, and a larger stream, running also toward the north-west, and spent several hours in attempting to cross it. We succeeded at last in getting our baggage and our horse safely over, at the expense only of the time we had lost, and a handsome wetting. Three miles farther brought us to the banks of a third stream, little inferior in size to the one last passed, and winding off also in a general course toward the north-west. Upon the banks of this stream we encamped for the night, the afternoon being nearly spent, and feeling somewhat fatigued from the labour of crossing so many streams, and tearing our way through the brush and green-briar so thickly interwoven on their borders, while the intervening ridges were little else but a pile of angular stones, with here and there an oak-tree, set as if all the ingenuity of the stone-mason had been exercised upon it. When the Edinburgh Reviewer estimated that Louisiana only cost three cents per acre, on the average of the whole number of square miles in the territory, he probably had no idea that there was any part of it which could be considered dear at that price. Yet, I think it would be money dearly expended in the purchase of such lands as we have this day traversed. Distance twelve miles.

Tuesday, Nov. 17th.

We have been at a loss to know to what river the streams we yesterday passed are tributary. Their course shows them to belong to the Missouri, through some of its lowermost southern tributary rivers. We conclude ourselves too far south for the Gasconade, and that we have consequently fallen upon the head waters of the Little Osage. This opinion is strengthened by the distance we have travelled, and by our having previously passed what we considered as the head waters of the Gasconade. If on the Little Osage we are farther north than we wish, and, under this impression, we this morning altered our course from south-west to south-south-west, which carried us directly up the valley of the creek on which we encamped. In travelling two or three miles, however, it bent off too far west, and we again entered upon the highlands. We had not travelled far when we discovered, in a ravine below, four bears upon trees. We have not heretofore sought to go out of our way for the purpose of hunting, but this was directly in our course, and too fine an opportunity to exercise our skill in hunter sport to be neglected. We accordingly determined to give them battle. To prevent the effects of a fright, we tied our horse to a sapling, and putting balls on the top of the charge already in our fowling-pieces, began cautiously to get within shooting distance. Unluckily we had no dog, and as the country was open, the bears soon perceived us. The only hope now was to run immediately to the foot of the trees to keep them up; but while attempting this, they began, one after the other, to come down; my companion sprained his ankle in running, and fell, while I arrived within fifty yards of the tree, and had the mortification to snap my gun at the last one, just as he had gained the foot of the tree. They fled across an adjacent ridge, and we in pursuit, but the tall grass screened them from our sight; and, after spending an hour in fruitless search, gave up the chase, returned to bring up our pack-horse, and pursued our way, considerably fatigued by an adventure, in which the bears certainly were victorious. The most serious evil, however, was to come, Pettibone had sprained his ankle, but not conscious of the hurt at first, had considerably inflamed it in the pursuit of the bear. He now began to feel its effects, and in travelling two miles farther, the pain became so severe, that he was unable to proceed, and we encamped in a valley, where we found both wood and water, at about two o'clock in the afternoon. Distance six miles.

Wednesday, Nov. 18th.

On our stopping yesterday to encamp, my first care, after unpacking the horse and turning him loose to feed, was to erect a snug camp, for I expected my companion would be confined several days by the hurt he had received. The pain seemed intense, so that he was unable to stand. We were not prepared for such an accident, our whole medicine-chest consisting of a box of Lee's pills, and some healing-salve. I recommended, however, the only thing I thought might be beneficial that our travelling pack afforded. It was a solution of common salt in warm water. With this we bathed the ankle, and bound it up with flannel and buffaloe-skin. This done, and a good log-fire built in front of the camp, he had all the physical aid which could be given; and, while he sought repose on a bed of skins resting upon dry grass, I took my gun and strolled about the valley within hearing of camp, with the view of killing some birds for supper. This was in reality one of the most pensive moments I experienced in my whole tour. The reflection that we should be confined a week or fortnight at that spot, where there was not green herbage enough for our horse to subsist, where there were neither deer or wild turkey, where there happened to be very little wood contiguous to the camp, and which was, altogether, a most dreary and desolate place; all this served to stamp the accident as a peculiar misfortune, and my anxiety was increased, by the knowledge that we had not provisions enough killed to last half that time; and by the fear that the inflammation, which was severe, might terminate, through the want of medical aid, in a mortification, and endanger his life. Such reflections obtruded themselves, while I sauntered around on the desolate rocks overlooking our camp. The fact is, I killed nothing, but was rejoiced on my return to find that the pain was not so violent. He took a cup of strong coffee and a biscuit for supper, and after enjoying a good night's rest, awoke in the morning, greatly improved. He could stand upon his foot, and thought, by a different arrangement of our pack, he might ride the horse, and continue our journey. That arrangement was accordingly made; and, mounting the horse, he seated himself on the top of our blankets and skins, and we bid adieu to our camp, with spirits as much exhilarated above the common tune, as they had, the evening before, been depressed below it. Our course of travelling was south-south-west, which carried us directly up the valley. We had not, however, gone more than a mile when two bears were discovered, at no great distance, playing with each other in the grass. We were, in fact, within shooting distance, and had approached without exciting either notice or alarm. Mr. P. for a moment forgot his pains, and dismounted to take a shot at them. We each put an additional ball into our guns, and examined our priming; then taking a deliberate aim, both fired at the same moment. Neither shot took effect, or if wounded, they ran with their usual clumsiness over an adjoining hill, leaving us the satisfaction of having shot at a bear.

We now entered on a very elevated tract of land, barren in appearance, but still covered with oaks, and rising one ridge above another, until we had attained a very great elevation, and one which commanded the most extensive prospect to the north and north-west; and, on gaining its summit, the view was equally commanding to the south and south-east. This ridge appears to be a favourite haunt for elk and bear, which have been frequently seen in our path. The enormous size of the horns of the elk give that animal an appearance of singular disproportion, but it has a stately carriage, and in running, by throwing up its head, brings the horns upon its back, which would otherwise incommode, if not entirely stop, its passage through a thicket. On descending from this highland, we came upon the banks of a small stream running south, and which originated in several springs in the valley which we have thus accidentally struck. Presuming it to be a tributary of White River, we pursued down its banks for about six miles and encamped. Distance eighteen miles.

Thursday, Nov. 19th.

The valley we are now in is bounded on each side by bluffs of lime-stone overlaying sand-stone. The mineralogical character of the country has been quite uninteresting since last noticed. From this spot we shall no longer travel by the compass, but pursue the stream, which I shall for the present call Limestone River, in all its windings down. This stream is wholly composed of springs which gush at almost every step from its calcareous banks, and it rapidly assumes the character of a considerable river. The waters are very pure, cold, and transparent. We have this day passed over some rich bottom lands, covered with elm, beech, oak, maple, sycamore, and ash. We have frequently driven the deer from its covert; and the wild turkey, duck, and grey squirrel, have been almost constantly in sight. General course south. Distance twelve miles.

Friday, Nov. 20th.

Within a mile from our last night's encampment, we met with the first cane, and found new difficulties in forcing our way through it. Our approach to a warmer climate is further indicated by several green plants which we have not before noticed, and particularly by the black haw, which we have this day found in great perfection, notwithstanding the advanced season. The lands continue to be that rich alluvion which is common to all the streams and vallies of Missouri, and covered by a luxuriant growth of forest-timber, shrubs, vines, cane, and green-briar, often so matted and interwoven together, that our progress is not only retarded, but attended with great fatigue. The extent of these bottoms is, however, small, and they are bordered by very high bluffs of calcareous rock. In our progress, we have been continually breaking in upon the retreats of those natural possessors of the soil, the bear and the deer. The turkey, the duck, swan, prairie-hen, and squirrel, have also viewed us as enemies, and fled at our approach. Such is the admirable power and foresight with which the Creator has endowed every part of animated nature, for its own conduct and preservation, that whether operating by instinctive impulse, as in the deer or wild-fowl, or by a reasoning and comparing faculty as in man, the effect is equally powerful, certain, and complete.

The stream which we are pursuing is devious beyond all example, and is further characterized by being made up wholly of springs, which bubble up from the rocks along its banks. No tributary has, as yet, swelled its current, either from the right or the left; but it continues visibly to increase from the springs, some of which are of immense size, and all remarkable for the purity of their waters. We have passed one of these springs to-day, which deserves to be ranked among the natural phenomena of this region. It rushes out of an aperture in a lime-stone rock, at least fifty yards across, and where it joins the main river, about 1,000 yards below, is equal to it, both in width and depth, the waters possessing the purity of crystal. I set my gun against a tree, and unbuckled my belt, preparatory to a drink, and in taking a few steps towards the brink of the spring, discovered an elk's horn of most astonishing size, which I afterwards hung upon a limb of a contiguous oak, to advertise the future traveller that he had been preceded by human footsteps in his visit to the Elkhorn Spring.

The difficulties we find in making our way down this valley, especially with a horse, seem to increase with the size of the stream, and the width of the valley; and if we formerly thought it wearisome in climbing over stony ridges, we now find it laborious in breaking our way through thickets bound together by grape-vines and green-briar, which are constantly either entangling our horse's feet, or become so wound around our bodies, that we are obliged to use a knife in cutting through. In breaking through one of these thickets I lost my mineral hammer, a misfortune I shall have frequent cause to regret, as it served both for detaching small specimens of such mineral bodies as I found worthy of notice, and for occasionally putting a nail in the shoes of our horse. The latter is, I confess, the only essay I have ever had occasion to make in the farrier's art; but it is an attention dictated by humanity, and which every traveller who makes long journeys across such stony and desolate tracts, should be provided for. We encamped at dusk on the brink of the river, on the skirts of an extensive cane-brake, more fatigued than we have been for several days, and having only travelled a distance of twelve miles. General course, south.

Saturday, Nov. 21st.

The bottom-lands continue to improve both in quality and extent, and the growth of cane is more vigorous and green, and affords a nutritious food for our horse. The bluffs on each side of the valley continue, and are covered by the yellow pine. At the distance of six miles below our last night's encampment, the river receives its first tributary from the left in a stream of a size nearly equal to itself, which enters at the foot of a very lofty bluff, nearly at right angles, and the river below their junction is visibly increased in size. The extreme limpidity of the water of this stream gives rise to a species of deception of which we have this day had a serious proof. It is so clear, white, and transparent, that the stones and pebbles in its bottom, at a depth of eight or ten feet, are reflected through it with the most perfect accuracy as to colour, size, and position, and at the same time appear as if within two or three feet of the surface of the water. Its depth cannot, therefore, be judged by the eye with any probability of that degree of exactness which can be had by looking into common clear streams. The explanation of this phenomenon is referable to the extreme degree of the purity of the water, which holds no fine particles of earth in suspension, and admits the rays of light to pass through it without being intercepted or refracted by those particles.

In attempting to ford the river where the water appeared to be two, or at most three feet deep, the horse suddenly plunged in below his depth, and was compelled to swim across, by which our baggage got completely wetted. Our tea, meal, salt, sugar, &c. was either greatly damaged, or entirely spoiled; our skins, blankets, and clothing, were also soaked with water, and such part of our powder as was not bottled shared the same fate. This proved a serious misfortune, as our situation precluded the possibility of getting new supplies. It was near night when this accident happened, and we immediately encamped, and began to dry our effects, and save what was not wholly ruined, in which we consumed a considerable part of the night. The weather continues mild and pleasant. We have passed innumerable flocks of turkey in the course of this day: also bear, deer, pigeon, duck, and squirrel. General course, south-south-east. Distance twelve miles.

Sunday, Nov. 22d.

The difficulties attending our progress along the banks of the river induced us this morning to take the highlands, where we found the travelling much easier, both to ourselves and our horse. On quitting the valley of the lime-stone we held a due-west course for about two miles, in order completely to disengage ourselves from the pine-forest, the ravines, and the brush, bordering the right bank of the river, when we found ourselves on an open barren, with very little timber, or under-brush, and generally level. We now altered our course to south-south-west, and travelled in a direct line fourteen miles without meeting any thing worthy of remark. We passed over a sterile soil, destitute of wood, with gentle elevations, but no hills or cliffs, and no water. The want of the latter we began sensibly to experience as night approached, and entered a rocky valley bending towards the south-east in hopes of finding it. Nothing could equal the sterility, or the rugged aspect of this valley, which deepened rapidly as we went, and was nothing more than a dry channel scooped out of a mass of rocks and stones, and seemed alike to forbid the expectation of finding either wood, grass, or water. For two miles we pursued our way without the prospect of finding a suitable place to encamp. Night was closing fast around us, and as the sky darkened, the wind began to rise, and as it murmured among the pines which crowned the high bluffs by which we were encompassed, seemed to forbode that we were destined to pass a cheerless night. We almost involuntarily stopped to survey the scene around us, and at this moment observed a small spring of water trickling among the stones at our feet; and turning toward its source, a cave in the rock, situated about midway up the bluff, yawned before us.

Elated with this sudden discovery, we immediately scrambled up to explore it; found it habitable, with a spring issuing at its mouth, and encamped. It was a spacious cave, and when we had kindled our fires, the reflection of light upon its high and rugged roof, and the different apartments into which it separated, produced an effect of aweful grandeur which it is impossible to describe. The train of reflections in which we are apt to indulge is not always the effect of a previous resolution, nor is it always within the power of control; and while we partook of our frugal meal of dried venison, bread, and water, we were almost imperceptibly drawn into a conversation on the nature and objects of our journey, the hardships of the hunter's life, its advantages and disadvantages, and comparison between savage and civilized society. This carried us to other scenes, the land of our nativity, which seemed dearer in being at a distance; the conversation dropped, and we spread our skins and prepared for sleep. While the light alternately glared or faded upon the terrific walls of the cave, I engraved the date of our visit with a knife upon a smooth calcareous rock, and transcribed from my journal a part of the following inscription, previously penciled for the purpose:

O thou, who, clothed with magic spell,
Delight'st in lonely wilds to dwell,
Resting in rift, or wrapt in air,
Remote from mortal ken or care.
Spirit of Caverns, goddess blest!
Hear a suppliant's fond request,
One, who nor a wanton calls
Or intruder in thy walls;
One, who spills not on the plain
Blood for sport, or worldly gain,
Like his red barbarian kin
Deep in murder, foul in sin;
Or with high horrific yells
Rends thy dark and silent cells;
But a devious traveller nigh,
Weary, hungry, parch'd and dry:
One who seeks thy shelter blest,
Not to riot, but to rest,
Grant me, from thy crystal rill,
Oft my glittering cup to fill;
Let thy dwelling, rude and high,
Form our nightly canopy,
And by super-human walls
Ward the dew that nightly falls:
Guard me from the ills that creep
On the houseless traveller's sleep,
From the ravenous panther's spring,
From the scorpion's poisoned sting,
From the serpent—reptile curst,
Or the Indian's midnight thrust.
Grant me sweet repose by night,
And a vision of delight!
Grant me this, and o'er my sleep
Thy aerial vigils keep.
Let me dream of friendship true,
And that human ills are few;
Let me dream that boyhood's schemes
Are not, what I've found them—dreams;
And his hopes, however gay,
Have not flitted fast away.
Let me dream life is no bubble,
That the world is free of trouble,
And my heart's a stranger still
To the cares that fain would kill.
Let me dream I e'er shall find
Honour fair, or fortune kind,
And that time shall sweetly fling
In my path perpetual spring.
Let me dream my bosom never
Felt the pang from friends to sever;
And that life is not replete,
Or with loss, pain, woe, deceit,
Let me dream misfortune's smart
Ne'er hath wrung my bleeding heart,
Nor from home its potent sway
Drove me far, oh far away.
Let me dream my journey here
Is not fraught with toil severe;
That the barren is not dreary,
Nor my daily marches weary;
And the cliff, the brake, the brier,
Never wound, and never tire;
Stony couch and chilly sky,
Trackless desart, mountain dry,
These afflict not, but beguile
Time away, like beauty's smile.
Let me dream it, for I know,
When I wake, it is not so.

Monday, Nov. 23d.

Our horse was turned loose last night with the poorest prospect of picking up a meal than he has yet experienced, and we had our fears that the sterility of the country would induce him to stray off. In this we were not disappointed, and spent the greater part of the forenoon in looking him up. We then followed down the valley about three miles, and came to the banks of the stream we had the day before left. A considerable change in the face of the country has taken place. Instead of rich bottoms, we have a high oak-prairie. The perpendicular bluffs, and the pine, have also disappeared, and in their place we have long sloping hills, covered by oaks. The stream has also visibly increased in size, and is now deep enough to float a keel-boat of twenty tons burthen. Thinking it had received a considerable tributary from the left bank, at no great distance above, we tied our horse, and pursued up several miles, but were mistaken. On returning, we followed down about three miles, and encamped on the banks of the river. Distance ten miles. We have observed little game today; the weather continues pleasant.

Tuesday, Nov. 24th.

Got our horse packed at day-light, and travelled down the river's bank fourteen miles, and encamped. Lands chiefly poor; some bottoms of a second quality, but very narrow, and hemmed in by rocks and hills. The river has to-day, about seven miles below our encampment, received a tributary from the right bank; and, a little below, another from the left. A singular circumstance was noticed at the former. It enters the river in a direction contrary to that of the current of the water, and with such velocity that it maintains its course for many yards up stream, until the opposing current overpowers and turns it downward.

A little below the junction of these streams we passed several Indian camps, but all in a state of decay, and bearing the appearance of having been deserted three or four years. These are the first traces of savage life (save some hacks apparently made with hatchets in saplings, noticed yesterday and to-day,) which we have seen since leaving the Fourche à Courtois. Several causes have induced the Indians to relinquish hunting in this quarter, and principally their wars among themselves, which have kept them in mutual fear of each other. Lately, the Indian title has been extinguished by purchase by the United States, and this stream will no longer be included in their hunting-grounds. It was claimed by the Osages.

The inducements for hunting are, however, great; and large quantities of bear, deer, elk, and beaver skins, might be collected. I had an opportunity this day, while travelling across a very rocky bank of the river, to observe two large and beautiful beavers who were sporting in water. They afterwards came out and sat upon a rock, occasionally changing positions, and evincing great dexterity and quickness in their movements. They were within shooting distance, but I reserved my fire a few moments to observe their motions, when suddenly they darted into their holes. The wild turkey has also been very abundant to-day, and the ducks and geese upon the river. Distance fourteen miles.

Wednesday, Nov. 25th.

The quality of the lands passed over to-day has, in general, been sterile, with little timber. A few strips of good bottom lands have intervened. In travelling ten miles, on descending the slope of a long hill, we descried at its foot a large cabin, covered with split board, and were elated with the idea of finding it inhabited by a white hunter. On coming up, however, we were disappointed. It had apparently been deserted about a year, or eighteen months. We could not, however, resist the comfortable shelter it afforded from the weather, and encamped in it at an early hour in the afternoon. The site had been chosen with the sagacity of a hunter. A stream ran in front; on the back was a thick and extensive forest; and a large cane-brake commenced near one side of it, and extended to the banks of the river, so that it afforded great facilties for procuring the three great requisites for encampment, wood, water, and horse-feed. On going to the river, we are surprised to find it considerably enlarged. It is as wide at this place as the Muskingum at Marietta, and probably affords as much water at this season of the year. The weather continues mild. Distance ten miles.

Thursday, Nov. 26th.

The great width of the river, which appears to have suddenly increased, induced us to believe we were upon White River, and that the stream we have been following has discharged its waters some miles above, where the thickness of the cane and brush rendered it impossible to travel near the river's bank. To ascertain this point I went back about five miles, and took a circuit into the country on the opposite side of the river, but found our conjecture unfounded, no stream of any size coming in at that place.

It is necessary here to note, that we have for several days been in the expectation of striking the hunter settlements on White River, having already been in the woods more than double the time contemplated. Our supplies have consequently been failing for several days. Our bread gave out more than a week ago, and we have not Indian meal enough to last more than one day more. Our dried meat and our shot are also nearly expended, so that there appears a certainty of running out of provisions very soon, without the possibility of getting a supply, unless we should be fortunate enough to arrive at some hunter's cabin in the course of one or two days. We have, in fact, already been on short allowance for two days past, and begin to feel the effects of an unsatisfied appetite. The following incident will serve to show the situation to which we were reduced. In returning from the little tour of observation I made on the right banks of the river, I met with a deserted Indian, or White Hunter's Camp, where I found three pumkins upon a vine which had sprung up from a seed accidentally dropped by the former occupant. One of them having been partly eaten by some wild animal, I gave the balance to my horse, except a portion which I reserved for my own use, and which I sat down and eat with as much pleasure as I ever enjoyed from the most delicious melon or peach. I was not, indeed, before sensible of such a degree of hunger. The other two I took to camp, where I received the hearty congratulations of my companion upon so fortunate a discovery, and arrangements were immediately made for a grand stew. A little iron camp-kettle we carried with us was well adapted for the purpose, and we had a plenty both of water and of salt; but as we had neither bread nor meat, nor any other eatable thing to make up a repast, some epicures would not have relished the entertainment. Nevertheless, we enjoyed a most hearty and social repast, for what we lacked in variety we made up in rarity; and had a haunch of venison, dressed with all the spices of the east, smoked upon our oaken table, we could not have done more ample justice to the cookery.

A circumstance has been noticed this evening, which proves that the climate we are in is adapted to the growth of cotton, several stalks of which were found growing spontaneously among the weeds encircling our camp. The bowls were handsomely filled with cotton of a fine quality, and we picked some of it, for the purpose of kindling a fire, as we find it preferable to tow, which we have heretofore used.

Friday, Nov. 27th.

Having exhausted our provisions and our shot, so that we could procure no support from our guns, we determined on leaving our heavy baggage and horse at the Hunter's Camp, in order that we might travel with greater rapidity in search of a settlement, which we had reason to believe was at no great distance. We had each provided ourselves with knapsacks, in which we put a blanket, and some other indispensables. Our horse, with a bell on, was turned into the adjacent cane-brake, and our baggage piled in one corner of the camp, secured from the weather by boards, bark, &c. With these arrangements we left the camp at an early hour, keeping on the highlands nearly parallel with the river, which ran in a general course south-south-west.

After travelling about six miles, we were rejoiced to hear a gun fired on our left, supposing it to be some hunter who could afford us relief, or at least direct us in what section of the country we were, and with this view made great exertions to find him. We fired several times; we hallooed, and were answered; but after pursuing him for some time, were obliged to give up the attempt, and pursue our way, having lost an hour or two in the search. In going eight miles further, night overtook us, and we encamped in an Indian bark tent on the bank of the river, which had not been occupied for one or two years. Distance fourteen miles. The weather is becoming cooler.

Saturday, Nov. 28th.

We this morning finished the last morsel of our provisions. A dense fog, which prevented us from discerning objects at a distance of fifty yards, detained us in camp until sun-rise, when we ascended the river-hills on our left, and travelled diligently in a south-south-east course, which was that of the river, until late in the afternoon. A want of water now compelled us again to seek the river's bank, and we encamped in a thick cane-brake in season to gather up some wood, and build a fire, before dark. Our route this day has lain across a rough and sterile tract of country, covered with oak, and destitute of streams; and we have seen abundance of deer, for whom it appears to be a favourite range at this season of the year. The rocks are invariably secondary lime-stone, which has continued to be the surface rock, in all the district we have passed over, since last notice. The mineralogy has not been interesting. Iron-ores, some crystallized quartz, pyrites, and horn-stone, are the principal substances noticed. The weather, which has been mild and pleasant, since we commenced our journey, has experienced a change that has gradually been operating for several days, and we have sensibly felt the increase of cold for the last two nights. The uniform temperature, 44 deg. of the air, and the serenity of the atmosphere, have been the subject of frequent remark, while we have been travelling in this section of territory. There have been a few days in which the atmosphere was smoky, but, at the same time, an increased warmth was observable; and with the exception of a slight shower of rain, which fell during the night, while encamped on the Merrimack, and a rain-storm which prevailed while in Ashley's Cave, on the Currents, the sky has remained unclouded. We did not, indeed, expect to find the climate so favourable at this season of the year, and are disposed to believe that the month of November in this region may uniformly be characterized by mild, serene, and pleasant weather. Distance fourteen miles. Acorns for supper.

Sunday, Nov. 29th.

A thick fog, which overhung the valley this morning, prevented us from quitting our camp at an early hour. When sufficiently clear to discern our way, we ascended the river-hills on our left, and took a south-south-east course across the highlands, and after travelling twelve miles, encamped in a deep ravine after dark, as we were unable before to find water. Nothing can exceed the roughness and sterility of the country we have to-day traversed; and the endless succession of steep declivities, and broken, rocky precipices, surmounted, added to a languor consequent to our situation, has rendered the day's march unusually fatiguing.

Monday, Nov. 30th.

We obtained little sleep last night on account of the cold, and commenced our journey at a very early hour this morning. After travelling two miles we fell into a horse-path with fresh tracks leading both ways, and after some deliberation followed the left-hand end of it, leading to the north-east.

There was no doubt now of our being on a path occasionally travelled between two settlements, but it was impossible to tell to which of them we were nearest. We first concluded to follow to the north-east; but, on going about three miles, altered our minds, and had returned about half a mile on the same path we went, when we met a man on horseback. He was the first human being we had encountered for twenty days, and I do not know that I have ever received a greater pleasure at the sight of a man. He proved to be a person who had formerly resided as a hunter at a remote settlement on White River, and was now returning from a visit to that region, where he had disposed of a small improvement. From him we learned that the stream we had been following down, was the Great North Fork of White River; that we were then within ten miles of its mouth, and that we were within a few miles of a house either way. Elated with this information, we turned about and followed our informant, who, in travelling about seven miles in a north-west direction, brought us to a hunter's house on Bennet's Bayou, a tributary stream of the North Fork, where we arrived about three o'clock in the afternoon.

Our approach was announced by the loud and long continued barking of dogs, who required repeated bidding before they could be pacified; and the first object worthy of remark which presented itself on emerging from the forest, was the innumerable quantity of deer, bear, and other skins, which had been from time to time stretched out, and hung up to dry on poles and trees around the house. These trophies of skill and prowess in the chace were regarded with great complacency by our conductor as we passed among them, and he told us, that the house we were about to visit belonged to a person by the name of Wells, who was a forehanded man for these parts, and a great hunter. He had several acres of ground in a state of cultivation, and a substantial new-built log-house, consisting of one room, which had been lately exchanged for one less calculated to accommodate a growing family. Its interior would disappoint any person who has never had an opportunity of witnessing the abode of man beyond the pale of the civilized world. Nothing could be more remote from the ideas we have attached to domestic comfort, neatness, or conveniency, without allusion to cleanliness, order, and the concomitant train of household attributes, which make up the sum of human felicity in refined society.

The dress of the children attracted our attention. The boys were clothed in a particular kind of garment made of deer-skin, which served the double purposes of shirt and jacket. The girls had buck-skin frocks, which it was evident, by the careless manner in which they were clothed, were intended to combine the utility both of linen and calico, and all were abundantly greasy and dirty. Around the walls of the room hung the horns of deer and buffaloe, rifles, shot-pouches, leather-coats, dried meat, and other articles, composing the ward-robe, smoke-house, and magazine of our host and family, while the floor displayed great evidence of his own skill in the fabrication of household furniture. A dressed deer-skin, served up much in the shape the animal originally possessed, and filled with bear's oil, and another filled with wild honey, hanging on opposite sides of the fire-place, were too conspicuous to escape observation, for which, indeed, they appeared to be principally kept, and brought forcibly to mind the ludicrous anecdote of potatoes and point—

> "As in some Irish houses where things are so-so,
> One gammon of bacon hangs up for a show."

Our first care was to inform our host that we wished something to eat; that we had come across the wilderness from Mine à Burton, had been twenty-four days out, and run short of shot, and that we had been without meat or bread for several days. We were about to add, that we were inexperienced in hunting and travelling in the woods, and had probably fared worse than an old hunter would have done in our situation; but he anticipated our design, notwithstanding our being disguised as hunters, and taking hold of my companion's shot-gun, remarked, "I reckon, stranger, you have not been used much to travelling in the woods."

While his wife was preparing a meal, we entered into a general conversation on the subject of our journey, and obtained from him such directions as were necessary for continuing our course, which we now learned we had widely missed. He inquired respecting the country we had crossed, what were the streams, the kind of wood, and the game. All this was done with a view either of learning from us, or of judging for himself whether it was a region for hunting, and what animals it abounded with. He was particularly anxious for bear, deer being very common in all parts, and to use his own words, "hardly worth shooting;" and from information we gave him, he immediately determined to set out the next day on a bear-hunt, up the Great North Fork. His wife seemed to take a very great interest in this piece of information, and was even more particular than he in inquiries respecting the freshness of the signs we had seen.

We now sat down to a meal of smoaking-hot corn-bread, butter, honey, and milk, a diet we should at any time have relished, but in the present instance very judiciously set before us; and after eating as much as we supposed two hearty men ought to, arose unsatisfied, not more from a regard to moral than physical propriety. After supper we made many inquiries respecting the region we were in; its bearing and relation to the nearest settlements; the quality of soil, mineral and vegetable productions, &c. topics upon which he readily gave us information. He was ever anxious to show that he knew something of civilized society (from which, by the way, we had afterwards reason to conclude he had made a sudden escape.) told us, that he sometimes went on business into the settled parts of Lawrence county, and that he then lived within a hundred miles of a justice of the peace, and by way of proving this, showed us a summons he had himself lately received. He desired us to read it, (a thing neither himself nor any member of his family could do,) but with all our ingenuity in deciphering syllables and connecting words, we could not tell him when, or where, the suit was to be held; who he was to answer, nor, indeed, make any sense out of it.

In the course of the evening I tried to engage our hostess and her daughters in small-talk, such as passes current in every social corner; but, for the first time, found I should not recommend myself in that way. They could only talk of bears, hunting, and the like. The rude pursuits, and the coarse enjoyments of the hunter state, were all they knew.

The evening was now far spent; we had related the most striking incidents of our tour, and had listened in return to many a hunting exploit, in the course of which, the trophies on the wall were occasionally referred to as proof, when a motion was made for sleep, and we lay down on a skin before the fire, happy in the reflection that we had a roof to cover us. Distance twelve miles.

Tuesday, Dec. 1st.

We had concluded to spend this day in preparations for recommencing our journey on the next. Our dress now required attention. Our shoes were literally cut to pieces by the stony region we had crossed, and we had purchased a deer-skin for the purpose of making ourselves a pair of mockasons a-piece. We also had purchased some corn for bread, some wild honey, and a little lead. The former required pounding in a mortar, and the latter moulding into bullets, or shot. All this was imperiously necessary: and we had, therefore, determined to devote the day in making preparations, but we found our host and his sons early busied in equipping themselves for a bear-hunt up the Great North Fork, and as they would pass near the place where we had left our horse and baggage on the 27th of November, determined not to lose so good an opportunity of being safely piloted back. Our wayward course for the last two days had already carried us as many miles in a direct line toward it, and he told us he could by a near route carry us there before nine o'clock at night. This served to increase our anxiety, which he had no sooner raised to the highest point, than he refused to conduct us, unless we would pay a certain sum of money, which he stipulated. He had already found we had money, for we had paid him very liberal, if not exorbitant prices, for every thing we had received, and it had only served to inflame his avarice. There was no alternative in our present situation, and we agreed to his demand, provided he would kill us a deer, either on the way, or before he left our camp. This arranged, we began early in the morning to beat our corn into meal, by means of a wooden mortar and pestle he kept for that purpose. This mortar was made by burning a hole in the top of a firm oak-stump, and a large wooden pestle attached to a spring-pole, adapted to play into it. It was an unwieldy apparatus, and worked with a tremendous clattering, attended with incredible fatigue to the operator. At eleven o'clock, however, we were ready for a march, and shouldering our knapsacks and guns, set forward toward the north-west, accompanied by our host, his sons, and a neighbour, seven men in all, armed and equipped for a bear-hunt, and followed by a troop of hungry dogs, who made the woods re-echo with their cries. They were all on horseback but ourselves, and as we were heavy laden, and sore-footed, we soon fell into the rear, which obliged the cavalcade occasionally to halt until we came up. After we had proceeded some miles, in the course of which it had been demonstrated, that we were unable to keep up with them, and that their frequent stopping would prevent our arrival at the hunter's camp that night, they offered us the privilege of riding and walking alternately with them, and with great diligence we reached the camp near ten o'clock at night, and found our horse and baggage all safe. Distance twenty miles.

Wednesday, Dec. 2d.

Two men had been detached from our party yesterday for the purpose of killing the stipulated deer; and that they might proceed more cautiously, took another route, and reached the camp some time before our arrival, but were unsuccessful, only bringing in a couple of turkeys, one of which was immediately roasted for supper. Early this morning, therefore, several of the party went out in quest of game, but all returned at intervals within two hours, completely unsuccessful, and after finishing the other turkey by way of breakfast, suddenly mounted their horses and bid us adieu. So abrupt a movement took us rather by surprise, and as they trotted off through an adjoining forest, we stood surveying the singular procession, and the singular beings of whom it was composed, and which, taken altogether, bore no comparison with any thing human or divine, savage or civilized, which we had ever before witnessed, but was rather characterised in partaking of whatever was disgusting, terrific, rude, and outré in all. It was, indeed, a novel and striking spectacle, such as we had never before experienced, and when they had passed out of sight we could not forbear an expression of joy at the departure of men, in whose presence we felt rather like prisoners than associates. From their generosity we had received nothing; they had neglected to fulfil one of the most essential engagements, and departed without even an apology for it; their manner and conversation were altogether rough and obscene, and their conduct such as to make us every moment feel that we were in their power. Nothing could more illy correspond with the ideas we had formed of our reception among white hunters, than the conduct we had experienced from these men. Their avarice, their insensibility to our wants, not to call them sufferings, and their flagrant violations of engagements, had served to sink them in our estimation to a very low standard; for, deprived of its generosity, its open frankness, and hospitality, there is nothing in the hunter-character left to admire.

Left alone, we began to reflect upon our own situation, which, with every advantage that had been gained by our visit to the hunters, was still extremely unpleasant. As to provision, we had corn, meal, and some honey, but we had not enough of either to last a great while without meat; and besides, the voracious appetite created by the exertion of travelling demanded something more. We had only succeeded in procuring a sufficient quantity of lead to mould five bullets. We had purchased a skin for making mocksaons. We had got directions for continuing our voyage, and knew the relative situation of the country we were in. In so much was our condition bettered, and preferable to what we found it five days before, on quitting the same camp in quest of a settlement. But we still lacked animal food, we lacked lead, and guns adapted to hunting; and we lacked that experience necessary to enable us to pursue our way successfully through a wilderness, by directions which were either very vague, or not founded on an acquaintance with that part of the country, the latter of which we had strong reasons for believing to be the case.

Our first care, after the departure of the hunters, was to make ourselves mocksaons, and we spent the day in this and other preparations, necessary to the comfort, convenience, and safety of our tour.

Thursday, Dec. 3d.

While Mr. Pettibone completed the preparations necessary for recommencing our journey to-morrow, I sallied into the adjoining woods with my gun, with a determination to kill something. But after spending several hours in endeavouring to elude the sagacity of the birds and beasts of the forest, and making three unsuccessful shots, I returned to camp in a plight infinitely worse than I left it. Mr. P. then took the gun, and also made an unsuccessful shot at a turkey. We had now but one ball left; it was near night, and a flock of turkey betook themselves to roost on a cluster of oaks at no great distance.

As we had been unsuccessful during the day, we resolved to try our fortune at night, and endeavour to accomplish that by stratagem which we had been unable to do in any other way, The night was dark, and we presumed this animal would not be frightened from its roost by our approach. To prevent all accidents, I cleaned up my gun thoroughly, put in a new flint, and charged it with great care, with the remaining ball, having first cut it in thirty-two parts by way of shot. Then taking a torch, we proceeded into the midst of the flock, and selecting a large one, which sat low, Mr. P. fired, while I held the light above the barrel, and the turkey dropped. With joy we returned to camp, and prepared a sumptuous repast.

Friday, Dec. 4th.

The weather, which has continued mild during the whole month of November, experienced a sensible change in the last three days, and we had cold and frosty nights, and the mornings and evenings chilly. The 1st of December was a cold day, the second moderately cold, the third mild, and this day it has rained constantly, so that we have been confined to our camp.

Saturday, Dec. 5th.

The weather being clear this morning, we got our horse packed at an early hour, and fording the river, pursued a west course for Sugar-Loaf Prairie, on White River. After travelling two miles across a high ridge, we struck a small river, tributary to the Great North Fork, which we followed up seven or eight miles, and encamped in a cane-brake on a low point of land, formed by the junction of two streams, near its head. Travelling had been excessively bad, owing to the hills, the roughness of the country, and the thickets along the margin of the stream. A proportion of cane-brake and swamp has also been encountered, in crossing which, our horse got mired, an accident which cost us great labour, and threatened one of the most serious calamities which has yet attended our journey. All attempts to rescue him seemed fruitless, our exertions only served to sink him deeper in the mire. We at last succeeded in getting off the pack, piece after piece, but after spending two hours in vain endeavours to extricate the horse, gave up the attempt. We now carried our baggage to a contiguous spot of dry ground, and sat down to rest, and to contemplate our own situation, which, deprived of our horse, was truly deplorable. Our skins, our cooking-utensils, axe, some part of our corn, meal, &c. must be abandoned. Without these we could not progress with any degree of comfort, and in resolving to renew our attempts, exhibited, perhaps, less of reasonable perseverance than of desperation, for, on returning to the horse, he was now sunk in soft black mud so deep, that the upper part of his back and head and neck were only visible. Nevertheless we succeeded, with less than an hour's work, in drawing him out, and cleaning the mud from his body, so that we were enabled to re-pack him, and travel on about three miles before encamping. Some tolerably good lands have been observed on the stream we came up, but generally there is a want of timber. Distance nine miles.

Sunday, Dec. 6th.

Travelled sixteen miles west-south-west, across a rocky ridge of land, and encamped on a pretty large stream running south, from which we conclude it is discharged into White River. Face of the country very rough, lands sterile, timber oak, and very scanty; weather very mild and pleasant for the season.

Monday, Dec. 7th.

On going six miles, we halted our horse near the summit of a bald mountain, while we went up to survey one of those beautiful and extensive prospects which the traveller so frequently enjoys in passing over this singularly wild and barren region. We had been told by the hunter to travel toward sun-set, that is, nearly due-west, and that in going fifteen miles we should reach a settlement of hunters on the banks of White River. We had now gone double that distance, and as we could not, from the elevated peak on which we now stood, discover any signs of White River, or of human habitations, had reason to conclude we had received wrong directions, and, therefore, resolved to alter our course of travelling. Returning to our horse, we turned directly south, making a right angle with our former course, and had not proceeded more than a mile, when we fell into a faintly-marked horse-path, and in following this three miles, it led into another and a plainer path, which led us on a high bluff of rocks, forming the eastern bank of White River, which ran a broad and beautiful stream below. Elated with this discovery, made so soon after we were ready to conclude ourselves lost, we followed down the river's bank about a mile, and discovered a house on the opposite bank of the river. We lost no time in fording it at a ripple, where the water was only half-leg deep, and were received with hospitality by the occupant, a white hunter, by the name of M'Gary. He had a field of several acres under cultivation, where he raised corn, with several horses, cows, and hogs. The house was of logs, built after the manner of the new settlers in the interior of Ohio, Indiana, and Ilinois. He was provided with a hand-mill for grinding corn, a smoke-house filled with bear and other meats, and the interior of the house, though very far from being either neat or comfortable, bore some evidence that the occupant had once resided in civilized society. I noticed a couple of odd volumes of books upon a shelf. Some part of the wearing-apparel of himself and family was of foreign manufacture. Upon the whole, he appeared to live in great ease and independence, surrounded by a numerous family of sons and daughters, all grown up; received us with cordiality, gave us plenty to eat, and bid us welcome as long as we pleased to stay.

In the evening, conversation turned on the length and object of our journey, the difficulties we had encountered, the game we had seen, &c. He told us we were 800 miles above the junction of White River with the Mississippi; that the river was navigable with keel-boats all the way; that there were several settlements along its banks, the river bottoms being very rich; and that traders sometimes came up with large canoes to that place, and to the settlement above at the Sugar-Loaf Prairie. He represented our journey toward the head of White River as extremely hazardous, on account of the Osage Indians, whose hunting grounds embraced the whole region in which this river, and its upper tributaries, originate, and who never failed to rob white hunters, and travellers who were so unfortunate as to fall in their way, and sometimes carried them into captivity. He related the particulars of a robbery they had some time before committed upon him in the very house we were then sitting, when they took away horses, clothes, and such other articles about the house as they took a fancy to. They had visited him in this way twice, and very recently had stolen eight beaver traps, with all his furs, from a neighbouring hunter, and detained him a considerable time a prisoner in their camp. Numerous other instances were related, all tending to prove that the Osage Indians felt hostile to the white settlements along that river, and that they were habitual robbers and plunderers, not only of them, but of every person who happened to fall defenceless into their hands.

All this was new to us, and excited some surprise, as the United States have enjoyed an uninterrupted peace with this tribe of Indians ever since the acquisition of Louisiana. We replied to him, that the existence of such robberies must certainly be unknown to the government; that we considered it bound to protect them in the lawful and peaceable enjoyment of their liberty and property while living within the territories of the United States, and that if proper representations were made to the Indian agent at St. Louis, redress could undoubtedly be obtained. He said such representations had been attempted, but owing to causes not recollected, did not succeed; that they were not, in fact, able to undertake such long journeys for the purpose of seeking redress, which would cost more than the worth of the property taken, &c.

He also informed us, that a deadly and deep-rooted hostility existed between the Cherokees, who had lately exchanged their lands in Tennessee for the country lying between the Arkansaw and Red River, and the Osages, and that they were daily committing depredations upon the territories and properties of each other. Having but a short time before witnessed the conclusion of a treaty of peace between these two tribes, made at St. Louis under the auspices of Governor Clark, I was surprised to hear of the continuance of hostilities. To prove what reliance is to be placed on the faith of such treaties, he mentioned, that when the Cherokees returned from the council which concluded that treaty, they pursued a party of Osages near the banks of White River, and stole, unperceived, twenty horses, and carried them safely off. Before going to sleep we determined to leave our horse, who had fallen away very much, and indeed all our baggage which cannot be put into knapsacks, with M'Gary, until our return. Distance eleven miles.

Tuesday, Dec. 8th.

Having obtained the necessary information, we determined this morning to continue our journey to Sugar-Loaf Prairie, for which we had made preparation, by turning a couple of small bags into knapsacks, and putting in a blanket, and such articles of necessity as could be conveniently carried. On offering to pay our entertainer for victuals and lodging, he refused to take any thing, and perceiving we had no meat to take with us, took me to his smoke-house, and drawing his knife, put it into my hand, then opened the door, and told me to go in and cut what I wanted. I did so. It was well filled with dried buffaloe's beef, and bear's meat, both smoaked and fresh. At nine o'clock in the morning we bid our generous host adieu, crossed the river at the ford, and followed up the horse-path leading to Sugar-Loaf Prairie, on the east bank of the river. This path frequently became so blind, that we were unable to keep it, and spent some time in frequent searches for the tracks of horses. Relieved of the tiresome task of leading a pack-horse, we travelled on with accelerated speed, until approaching darkness warned us that it was time to encamp. Deer and Turkey have been common. The weather continues mild. Distance sixteen miles. Course west-north-west.

Wednesday, Dec. 9th.

The path we are pursuing became so feint and indefinite, that we were unable to follow it more than a mile from our encampment, but taking the general course of the river, forced our way through the thick cane and brier which over-run the rich alluvial banks of the river, with incredible fatigue. At the distance of seven miles we came unexpectedly into a small opening in the midst of one of the most gloomy thickets of cane we had yet encountered. Here, in a small camp, tight only at top, we found a family who had two weeks before emigrated from the lower parts of White River. They had brought their furniture and effects, such as it was, partly in a canoe up the river, and partly on pack-horses through the woods.

Nothing could present a more striking picture of the hardships encountered by the back wood's settler, than this poor, friendless, and forlorn family. The woman and her little children were a touching groupe of human distress, and in contemplating their forlorn situation we for a while forgot our own deprivations and fatigues. They were short of provisions, the husband being out in search of game, and after obtaining such information as the woman was able to give, respecting the next settlement, we continued our journey in a north-west course along the hills which skirt the river bottoms at the distance of a mile from its banks, and arrived at an early hour in the afternoon at the house of a Mr. Coker, at what is called Sugar-Loaf Prairie. This takes its name from a bald hill covered with grass rising on the verge of the river alluvion on the west side of the river, and is discernible at the distance of many miles. The settlement at Sugar-Loaf Prairie consists at present of four families, located within the distance of eight miles, but is so recent that a horse-path has not yet been worn from one cabin to another. It is the highest settlement on the river, excepting two families at the mouth of Beaver Creek, about three miles above. These people subsist partly by agriculture, and partly by hunting. They raise corn for bread, and for feeding their horses previous to the commencement of long journeys in the woods, but none for exportation. No cabbages, beets, onions, potatoes, turnips, or other garden vegetables, are raised. Gardens are unknown. Corn, and wild meats, chiefly bear's meat, are the staple articles of food. In manners, morals, customs, dress, contempt of labour and hospitality, the state of society is not essentially different from that which exists among the savages. Schools, religion, and learning, are alike unknown. Hunting is the principal, the most honourable, and the most profitable employment. To excel in the chace procures fame, and a man's reputation is measured by his skill as a marksman, his agility and strength, his boldness and dexterity in killing game, and his patient endurance and contempt of the hardships of the hunter's life. They are, consequently, a hardy, brave, independent people, rude in appearance, frank and generous, travel without baggage, and can subsist any where in the woods, and would form the most efficient military corps in frontier warfare which can possibly exist. Ready trained, they require no discipline, inured to danger, and perfect in the use of the rifle. Their system of life is, in fact, one continued scene of camp-service. Their habitations are not always permanent, having little which is valuable, or loved, to rivet their affections to any one spot; and nothing which is venerated, but what they can carry with them; they frequently change residence, travelling where game is more abundant. Vast quantities of beaver, otter, raccoon, deer, and bear-skins, are annually caught. These skins are carefully collected and preserved during the summer and fall, and taken down the river in canoes, to the mouth of the Great North Fork of White River, or to the mouth of Black River, where traders regularly come up with large boats to receive them. They also take down some wild honey, bear's bacon, and buffaloe-beef, and receive in return, salt, iron-pots, axes, blankets, knives, rifles, and other articles of first importance in their mode of life.

We were received by Mr. Coker with that frankness and blunt hospitality which are characteristic of the hunter. Our approach to the house was, as usual, announced by the barking of dogs, whose incessant yells plainly told us, that all who approached that domain, of which they were the natural guardians, and whether moving upon two, or upon four legs, were considered as enemies, and it was not until they were peremptorily, and repeatedly recalled, that they could be pacified. Dried skins, stretched out with small rods, and hung up to dry on trees and poles around the house, served to give the scene the most novel appearance. This custom has been observed at every hunter's cabin we have encountered, and, as we find, great pride is taken in the display, the number and size of the bear-skins serving as a credential of the hunter's skill and prowess in the chace.

We had no sooner acquainted our entertainer with the objects and contemplated extent of our journey, than he discovered the fear which appears to prevail on this river, respecting the Osage Indians, and corroborated what we had before heard of their robberies. He considered the journey hazardous at this season, as they had not yet, probably, broke up their hunting camps, and retired, as they do every winter, to their villages on the Grandosaw (Grand Osage) river. He recommended us to abandon our guns for rifles, to take with us as little baggage as possible—thought we should find it a poor season for game, and made other remarks of a dicouraging nature. The fact was, he had an old rifle for sale, thought we had money, and wished to get double the worth of it, and wished us to engage an idle hypochondriac, who hung about him, as a guide. We were inclined to do both, but could not agree as to the price of the former, and the latter could not be prevailed to go at any price.

Thursday, Dec. 10*th.*

On first striking White River, at M'Gary's, we endeavoured to procure a guide to conduct us on our route, but were unsuccessful; being disappointed in our application here also, we took directions for reaching the hunters' camps at Beaver Creek, and left Coker's about noon. He refused taking pay for our entertainment. After travelling eight miles in a north-west course, which carried us across a hilly barren tract, extending eastwardly from the river, we encamped before dark, under a ledge of shelving lime-stone rock, the atmosphere portending a storm.

The weather begins to assume a wintry character; this is the first day we have been troubled with cold fingers.

Friday, Dec. 11*th.*

A singular species of deception has occurred to us in the course of this day's journey. We had been told, that in travelling a due north-west course for eighteen miles, we should strike Beaver Creek, which we were to pursue down to its mouth, where a couple of hunters had located themselves. We had, however, deviated too far to the west, and arrived at about two o'clock on the banks of White River, which we mistook for Beaver Creek, and fording it, at waist deep, pursued our course about two miles beyond, when we became sensible of the error, turned back, and pursued up on the west bank of the river until evening. We now found ourselves on a gravelly barren point of land, encompassed on both sides by water, without wood, and exposed to a keen air blowing down the river. The day-light had already disappeared; on the west bank was a high bluff of lime-stone rock rising perpendicularly from the water's edge, and so precipitous that it could not be passed; on the east was an extensive bottom of rich alluvion land, covered by forest-trees and cane, and separated from us by the main channel of the river. The very idea of wading through it, at this late hour, and cold as we were, made us shiver, yet we could not long hesitate between remaining without a stick of wood to kindle a fire, and fording the river, at this place 300 yards in width, with a depth of from four to five feet. On gaining the opposite shore, we were so chilled, that it was with difficulty a fire could be raised, and I confess this to have been one of the most cheerless nights we experienced on our tour. Distance sixteen miles, weather windy and cold.

Saturday, Dec. 12th.

The ground this morning was covered with a thick white frost, the air keen and cold, and having been prevented from getting much sleep during the night by the severity of the weather, we left our encampment at day-break, and ascended the bluff, bordering the river bottom at the distance of a mile on the east.

In travelling a few miles we observed a smoke issuing from the ground, in a column about two feet in diameter, as if produced by subterranean fire. On coming up, however, it proved to be a warm dense air escaping from a cavern below, through a small aperture in the rock. All was dark within, but by throwing down stones, it appeared evident from the noise, that there was a large cavity, and thinking it might repay the risk and trouble of going down, I determined to descend; or, at least, to make the attempt. There was just room enough at the mouth to squeeze myself in, and I supported myself against the rocks, carefully feeling my way down, and as I descended, could see the light from above. At the distance of twenty feet, this orifice, which had increased gradually, though irregularly, in size, opened into a spacious chamber, terrific in appearance from its rugged walls, viewed by the feeble light transmitted from above. In three several directions, passages of nearly equal size diverged, as from a centre, descending gradually into the earth, and appearing like rents caused by some mighty convulsion. I followed down one of these as far as the least glimmering of light could be discerned, and groped along some distance further, but as this was rather a dangerous business, and I had no light for exploring with any degree of satisfaction, I gave up the attempt, bringing out a fragment of the rock, which appeared, on inspection, to be similar in every respect to the rock on the surface, viz. secondary lime-stone.

Following the course of the river, which is devious beyond comparison, we found ourselves at the distance of about six miles on the banks of Beaver Creek, a beautiful, clear stream of sixty yards wide, with an average depth of about two feet, and a handsome gravelly bottom. A little beyond this we found a horse-path, which led, within the distance of a mile and a half, to the hunters' camps we were in search of. Distance eleven miles.

Sunday, Dec. 13*th.*

We are now at the last hunter-settlement on the river, which is, also, the most remote bound to which the white hunter has penetrated in a south-west direction from the Mississippi river, toward the rocky mountains. It consists of two families, Holt and Fisher by name, who have located themselves here within the last four months. They have not yet cleared any land for corn, nor finished their houses, notwithstanding the advanced season. They have fixed the site of their habitations on the east banks of the river, on the verge of a very large and rich tract of bottom land, occupying a bend in the river. It is covered by a heavy forest of oak, ash, maple, walnut, mulberry, and sycamore, the latter skirting the immediate banks of the river, with a vigorous growth of cane below. The opposite bank of the river is a perpendicular bluff of lime-stone rock, rising at the water's edge to a height of 300 feet, where it terminates in very rugged peaks, capped by a stinted growth of cedars and oaks, and forming a most striking contrast with the level, rich, and heavy wooded plain below, over which it casts its broad shadow by half-past three in the afternoon, which must render it a cool and delightful residence in summer. The bold and imposing effect of this scene is much heightened by beholding two natural pyramids, or towers of rock, ascending with a surprising regularity from the highest wall of the bluff, to a height of fifty or sixty feet, while all the surrounding stratum of rock has submitted during the lapse of ages to the powerful force of attrition, and been carried by rains, and by gravitation, into the adjoining vallies, whence, being comminuted by the action of water, it has been discharged through the Mississippi into the ocean. Without referring the origin of these remarkable pillars of stone to such, or similar causes, it is impossible to reconcile their appearance with the general aspect and economy of mineral nature.

Our first care on reaching this spot, was to endeavour to procure one of the hunters to guide us on our way, but in this we have not, as yet, been successful. They are strongly impressed with a fear of being robbed by the Osage Indians, and represent that they have not corn enough to last their families until our return; that their camps are not yet finished, &c.

Monday, Dec. 14.

The love of gain, which so strongly characterizes polished society in all parts of the world, has also found its way into these remote woods. We have travelled over many a trackless desart, and uninhabited plain. We have crossed that boundary in our land, within which virtue prompts, wisdom teaches, and law restrains; we are beyond the pale of civilized society, with all its endearments, inquietudes, and attractions; but we are not beyond the influence of money, which is not confined by geographical boundaries, or located in its operation upon any particular class of society, or degree of civilization. We, accordingly, found this, after all their plausible excuses, the only real obstacle in the way of our agreement with them to accompany us as guides, but thought it advisable to submit to a little imposition, in order to accomplish our main design in visiting this region, and have just concluded a bargain with Holt. He is to have our horse, and ten dollars, to accompany us as guide and hunter, with the benefit of all skins or furs he may collect on the tour. He is first to go about 100 miles down the river, to purchase corn from some wealthy hunters there, for the use of his family. In the meantime we shall remain, and employ ourselves in making a canoe to descend the river on our return, or in completing the hunters' cabins, so that they may leave their families in a comfortable situation while we are absent. Fisher concludes to accompany us gratuitously, but would not go unless Holt went as guide, from which it is evident they have a perfect understanding of each other's views.

Tuesday, Dec. 15th.

The hunters did not get ready to start on their preliminary tour after corn in season to set out before noon, and determined to defer starting until to-morrow. In the afternoon we assisted them in splitting boards, and covering the roof of a log-house. The weather continues cold.

Wednesday, Dec. 16th.

This morning Holt and Fisher, accompanied by a son of the latter, with three horses, set out on a journey to purchase corn, which they intend carrying on their horses, in a particular kind of narrow leathern bag, kept for that purpose. We have been employed in chopping wood for the use of the family, as we are left, *ad interim*, to protect and provide for the women and children. The weather is now severely cold. There has, this day, for the first, been floating ice in the river, and water freezes in a few moments in the cabin.

Thursday, Dec. 17th.

Employed in chopping wood, and clearing land. Our day's work, during the hunters' absence, will be much the same, and made up chiefly of the following particulars: in the morning, rise at, or before day-break, and build a large cabin-fire, of logs eight feet long; then pound the corn which is to serve the family during the day. This is done in a wooden mortar, with a pestle attached to a spring pole. The time from this to breakfast is employed in patching mockasons, &c. We then sally out into the forest with our axes, and chop and clear away cane and brush until dinner, which answers also for supper, and happens about five o'clock, so that we never sit down without an appetite. Our bill of fare presents no variety. We have homony, that is, corn boiled until it is soft, and bear's bacon for dinner, without any vegetables. The same for breakfast, with the addition of sassafras-tea. The day's work closes with building a large night-fire, and packing up, from the adjoining forest, wood enough to replenish it during the night, and succeeding day. We then lie down on a bear-skin before the fire, and enjoy the sweet repose resulting from daily labour. The weather continues cold and frosty. Water poured upon the corn this morning previous to pounding, froze in carrying it from the cabin to the mortar, a distance of thirty yards.

Friday, Dec. 18th.

Employed as yesterday. We are sometimes led to contrast the force of habit on different persons, or different classes of society; but it is only on comparing the manners and customs of people widely separated, and whose modes of life and of thinking are wholly dissimilar from our own, that the power of moral or physical habit is rendered striking, or extraordinary. We have had frequent occasion, while sojourning among the hunters in this region, to draw such comparisons. A few instances may here be mentioned. We had furnished our travelling pack with a quantity of choice young hyson-tea, and this morning made a pot of it, and invited Mrs. Fisher to partake, presuming it would be highly relished, but were surprised to hear her declare it was bitter, and unpalatable stuff. She could not drink it. She preferred dittany, sassafras, and spice-wood tea, to our hyson. We had not before imagined that there was any part of the white population of the United States strangers to this plant, so universally in use in our country.

Some days ago, a young child of Mrs. H. being taken violently ill with what I considered a bilious attack, I administered one of "Lee's pills," which gave effectual relief, and the child suddenly recovered. This incident served to give them great confidence in my skill, and led to further applications. Mrs. F., whose delicate situation was apparent, had she not mentioned it, feared the consequences of a costive habit, and applied to me for relief. Having little experience in these matters, I felt great delicacy and reluctance in giving any advice, but ventured on recommending a few of my anti-bilious pills, which had the desired effect. One of her daughters, a girl of fourteen, now applied; in short, before I left their cabins, I dealt out all my pills, and acquired the reputation of being a great doctor.

Justice, which in civilized society is administered through all the formalities of the law, is here obtained in a more summary way. Two hunters having a dispute respecting a horse, which one had been instrumental in stealing from the other, the person aggrieved meeting the other, some days afterwards, in the woods, shot him through the body. He immediately fled, keeping in the woods for several weeks, when the neighbouring hunters, aroused by so glaring an outrage, assembled and set out in quest of him. Being an expert woodman, he eluded them for some time, but at last they got a glimpse of him as he passed through a thicket, and one of the party fired upon him. The ball passed through his shoulder, but did not kill him. This event happened a few days before our arrival, but I know not how it has terminated. In all probability several lives will be lost before a pacification takes place, as both parties have their friends, and all are hot for revenge.

Saturday, Dec. 19th.

Engaged in chopping until noon. In the afternoon we crossed the river on the ice, and visited the pyramidal rocks before mentioned. The west bank of the river, at this place, consists of a rugged wall of lime-stone, on the top of which the two pyramids are situated. The ascent to them lies through a deep defile of rocks, through which we passed with great difficulty, climbing up by the roots of the cedar, and rugged projections of rock, and occasionally leaping from one overhanging promontory to another—

> " O'er toppling rocks, where stinted briers grow,
> Cautiously, fearfully, tremblingly we go:
> Passing by devious path, and dreadful steep,
> Where the black serpent takes his sunny sleep,
> And one mistaken tread, or whirling brain,
> Is fraught with instant death, or lingering pain." MS.

In crossing over the river, the remarkable purity of the water attracted our attention, producing a deception similar to that experienced on the 21st of November, in fording the Great North Fork of White River, the depth of the water, which appears to be only five or six feet, being in reality, more than twenty. The ice, too, is so clear, that, in walking across, it appeared as if we were walking on a pane of glass, reflecting every inequality of bottom, pebble, &c. with as much accuracy in this depth, as if covered by a pane of glass in a merchant's case.

Sunday, Dec. 20th.

Observed as a day of rest. The weather this day has been perceptibly milder, and a little smoky.

Monday, Dec. 21st.

Employed until three o'clock in splitting and hewing planks for a floor to Holt's cabin, when rain compelled us to quit.

Tuesday, Dec. 22d.

The rain ceased this morning, leaving the atmosphere foggy, damp, and warm. Employed in completing the job commenced yesterday.

Wednesday, Dec. 23d.

About ten o'clock this morning, Holt and Fisher returned, laden with corn. The day has been mild and pleasant, the dense fog having entirely disappeared, giving place to a clear blue sky.

Thursday, Dec. 24th.

Employed in hewing out a table, daubing and chinking the house, &c. We this day left Fisher's, and removed to Holt's, a distance of half-a-mile, having now got his cabin in a comfortable condition. The hunter, although habitually lazy, and holding in contempt the pursuits of agriculture, so far, at least, as is not necessary to his own subsistence, is nevertheless a slave to his dog, the only object around him to which he appears really devoted. His horse, cow, and hogs, if he have any, living upon vegetable food, can subsist themselves in the woods; but the dog requires animal food, which he cannot himself alone procure, and to furnish which occupies no inconsiderable portion of the hunter's time. It is no easy task to provide a pack of hungry dogs, from six to twelve, the usual number owned by every hunter, with meat, the truth of which we have witnessed for several days past, and the hunters went out this morning to kill meat enough to supply them until our return. They had several days before killed a buffaloe, a bear, and a panther, about twelve miles above, on the banks of the river, but not having their horses with them, concealed it in the woods in such a way as to prevent its being devoured by the wolves. They embarked early this morning in a canoe to bring it in, and returned in the afternoon with the bear, and a part of the buffaloe, the wolves having, notwithstanding its being scaffolded, got up, and destroyed the rest. They also brought down some of the leg-bones of the buffaloe for the sake of the marrow they contain, which they told us is considered a great delicacy, intending it as a treat to us. These bones are boiled in water to cook, the marrow, and then cracked with an axe, and the marrow taken out. The quantity is immense. It is eaten while hot, with salt, and with the appetites we now possess, and which are voracious, we have eaten it with a high relish. A very high value is set upon a good dog by the hunter, and they are sought with the greatest avidity. We have been told of a hunter, who lately exchanged a cow for a dog, but this is considered extraordinary even here.

Friday, Dec. 25th.

Christmas-day. Employed in splitting oak-boards, &c. At our suggestion, the hunters went out to kill some turkeys, as we wished one for a Christmas-dinner, and after an absence of a couple of hours, returned with fourteen. I prevailed on Mrs. H. to undertake a turkey-pie with Indian meal crust, which we partook of under a shady tree on the banks of the river, the weather being warm and pleasant.

Saturday, Dec. 26th.

Employed in beating meal for bread on our tour. We have, at last, obviated every difficulty opposing our progress, and got matters in readiness for continuing our journey, to-morrow being fixed upon for starting, should the weather prove favourable.

Sunday, Dec. 27th.

Rain, which began last night, prevented our starting this day, which has been improved in reflection and rest. The sabbath is not known by any cessation of the usual avocations of the hunter in this region. To him all days are equally unhallowed, and the first and the last day of the week find him alike sunk in unconcerned sloth, and stupid ignorance. He neither thinks for himself, nor reads the thoughts of others, and if he ever acknowledges his dependence upon the Supreme Being, it must be in that silent awe produced by the furious tempest, when the earth trembles with concussive thunders, and lightning shatters the oaks around his cottage, that cottage which certainly never echoed the voice of human prayer. In conversation a few days ago, with our host, on the subject of religion, he observed that when living on the banks of the Mississippi, some years ago, he occasionally attended a methodist-meeting and thought it a very good thing, but had found as many rogues there as any where else, and on account of a particular act of dishonesty in one of the members of the church, had determined never to go again, and had since thought there was no great use in religion; that a man might be as good without going to church as with it, and that it seemed to him to be a useless expense to be paying preachers for telling us a string of falsehoods, &c. He said, that itinerant preachers sometimes visited the lower parts of White River, and had penetrated within 300 miles of the place where we then sat, but had not found much encouragement.

Schools are also unknown, and no species of learning cultivated. Children are wholly ignorant of the knowledge of books, and have not learned even the rudiments of their own tongue. Thus situated, without moral restraint, brought up in the uncontrolled indulgence of every passion, and without a regard of religion, the state of society among the rising generation in this region is truly deplorable. In their childish disputes, boys frequently stab each other with knives, two instances of which have occurred since our residence here. No correction was administered in either case, the act being rather looked upon as a promising trait of character. They begin to assert their independence as soon as they can walk, and by the time they reach the age of fourteen, have completely learned the use of the rifle, the arts of trapping beaver and otter, killing the bear, deer, and buffalo, and dressing skins and making mockasons and leather clothes. They are then accomplished in all customary things, and are, therefore, capable of supporting themselves and a family, and accordingly enter into marriage very early in life. The women are observed to have few children, and of those, being deprived of the benefit of medical aid, an unusual number die in their infancy. This is probably owing wholly to adventitious causes, and may be explained on the same principles as a similar circumstance in savage life, the female being frequently exposed to the inclemency of the weather, always to unusual hardships and fatigues, doing in many instances the man's work, living in camps on the wet ground, without shoes, &c. Mrs. H. tells me, she has not lived in a cabin which had a floor to it for several years; that during that time they have changed their abode several times, and that she has lost four children, who all died before they reached their second year. The girls are brought up with little care, and inured to servile employments. They have ruddy complexions, but, in other respects, are rather gross, as they live chiefly on animal food. Being deprived of all the advantages of dress, possessed by our fair countrywomen in the east, they are by no means calculated to inspire admiration, but on the contrary disgust; their whole wardrobe, until the age of twelve, consisting of one greasy buckskin frock, which is renewed whenever worn out.

Among all classes superstition is prevalent. Witchcraft, and a belief in the sovereign virtue of certain metals, so prevalent in those periods of the history of the progress of the human mind, which reflect disgrace upon our species, have still their advocates here. Mr. F. related to us an amusing story of a rifle he had, that was bewitched, so that he could kill nothing with it, and sold it on that account. He had fixed his suspicions upon a neighbour, and was full in the belief that he had, out of malice, laid a spell upon his rifle.

Mrs. H. had a brass ring which she had worn for several years, and declared it to be an infallible remedy for the cramp, which she was much troubled with before putting on the ring, but had not had the slightest return of it since. She was now in much distress, on account of having lately broken it so that it could not be worn, and observing that I collected ores and minerals, thought I might possess some skill in working metals, and solicited me to mend it. It was in vain I represented it was not the case; that I had no blow-pipe, or other necessary apparatus for that purpose; she was convinced I could do it, and I did not wish to show a disobliging disposition by refusing to make the attempt. By cutting several small stems of cane of different thicknesses, and fitting one into the other until the aperture was drawn down to the required degree of fineness, I soon made a blow-pipe. A hollow cut in a billet of wood, and filled with live hickory coals, answered instead of a lamp; and with a small bit of silver, and a little borax applied to the ring, and submitted to the influence of my wooden blow-pipe, I soon soldered the ring, and afterwards filed off the redundant silver with a file that happened to be among the moveable property of our host. When I made Mrs. H. a table out of the butt of an enormous white ash-log, she declared I must be a carpenter; when I relieved her child from a bilious attack, she was inclined to consider me a physician; but she was now convinced I was a silversmith.

Monday, Dec. 28th.

This morning we commenced our journey towards the north, accompanied by Holt and Fisher, both on horseback, and provided with rifles. Holt goes as guide, being acquainted with the regions we are about to visit, and both are expert hunters, so that we are neither under apprehensions of losing our way, or suffering for want of provisions. The weather is chilly and unsettled. Travelled ten miles, and encamped in a valley at dusk. Killed one deer.

Tuesday, Dec. 29th.

The country passed over yesterday, after leaving the valley of White River, presented a character of unvaried sterility, consisting of a succession of limestone ridges, skirted with a feeble growth of oaks, with no depth of soil, often bare rocks upon the surface, and covered with coarse wild grass; and sometimes we crossed patches of ground of considerable extent, without trees or brush of any kind, and resembling the Illinois prairies in appearance, but lacking their fertility and extent. Frequently these prairies occupied the tops of conical hills, or extended ridges, while the intervening valleys were covered with oaks, giving the face of the country a very novel aspect, and resembling, when viewed in perspective, enormous sand-hills promiscuously piled up by the winds. At the foot of one of the highest and most remarkable of these, called the Bald-hill, and known among hunters who travel in this quarter as a land-mark, we last night encamped. No alteration was observed in the aspect of the country, this morning, for the first six miles, when we descended into the valley of Swan Creek, a clear stream of thirty yards wide, which joins the main current of White River, about forty miles below. Its banks afford a strip of rich alluvial bottom, covered with a heavy growth of maple, hickory, ash, hackberry, elm, and sycamore, and its waters are frequented by the beaver. In following up this stream about five miles it commenced raining, and we were compelled to encamp, sheltering ourselves in some degree under the broad knots of fallen trees and limbs. Distance ten miles.

Wednesday, Dec. 30th.

In pursuing up the valley of Swan Creek, about nine miles, we fell into the Osage trace, a horse-path beaten by the Osages in their hunting excursions along this river, and passed successively three of their camps, now deserted, all very large, arranged with much order and neatness, and capable of quartering probably 100 men each. Both the method of building camps, and the order of encampment observed by this singular nation of savages, are different from any thing of the kind I have noticed among the various tribes of aboriginal Americans, through whose territories I have had occasion to travel. The form of the tent or camp may be compared to an inverted bird's nest, or hemisphere, with a small aperture left in the top, for the escape of smoke; and a similar, but larger one, at one side, for passing in and out. It is formed by cutting a number of slender flexible green-poles of equal length, sharpened at each end, stuck in the ground like a bow, and, crossing at right angles at the top, the points of entrance into the ground forming a circle. Small twigs are then wove in, mixed with the leaves of cane, moss, and grass, until it is perfectly tight and warm. These tents are arranged in large circles, one within another, according to the number of men intended to be accommodated. In the centre is a scaffolding for meat, from which all are supplied every morning, under the inspection of a chief, whose tent is conspicuously situated at the head of the encampment, and differs from all the rest, resembling a half cylinder inverted. Their women and children generally accompany them on these excursions, which often occupy three months. The boys and lazy drones who do not help in hunting, are obliged to eat the intestines of the animals killed. The white hunter, on encamping in his journeys, cuts down green-trees, and builds a large fire of long logs, sitting at some distance from it. The Indian hunts up a few dry limbs, cracks them into little pieces a foot in length, builds a small fire, and sits close by it. He gets as much warmth as the white hunter, without half the labour, and does not burn more than a fiftieth part of the wood. The Indian considers the forest his own, and is careful in using and preserving every thing which it affords. He never kills more meat than he has occasion for. The white hunter destroys all before him, and cannot resist the opportunity of killing game, although he neither wants the meat, nor can carry the skins. I was particularly struck with an instance of this wanton practice, which lately occurred on White River. A hunter returning from the woods heavy laden with the flesh and skins of five bears, unexpectedly arrived in the midst of a drove of buffalo, and wantonly shot down three, having no other object than the sport of killing them. This is one of the causes of the enmity existing between the white and the red hunters of Missouri. On reaching the third Osage encampment, we left the valley of Swan Creek, holding a north-west course, and immediately entered on a high, sterile ridge of land, which separates the waters of Swan Creek from Findley's River. Finding no water at the proper time for stopping, we travelled two hours after dark, and encamped in a barren little valley without wood. Distance twenty miles.

Thursday, Dec. 31*st.*

Within a mile after quitting the spot of our encampment, we entered the valley of Findley's Fork, or river, a large stream running from the north-east, and tributary to James' river, the main north-western branch of White River. We pursued down this stream five miles, passing over a body of well-wooded, fertile river bottom, when the severity of the weather induced us to stop and build a fire to warm ourselves. This stream has been named by the hunters in allusion to the first white beaver trapper who ventured to set his traps in its waters, and the beaver is still found in it. We now quit the river, ascending the highlands which divide it from James' River, and encamped at an early hour on the banks of a small stream, in a well-wooded and fertile country. Distance twelve miles. Course north-west. Killed one deer, two turkeys, one wolf, and one wild-goose.

Friday, Jan. 1*st.*

On leaving Findley's Fork, we followed up a small deep valley, which in a short distance, and after a few windings, terminated suddenly in a cave opening on a hill-side the whole width of the valley, with a stream running from its mouth. The first appearance of this stupendous cavern struck us with astonishment, succeeded by a curiosity to explore its hidden recesses. Its width across, at the mouth, could not be estimated at less than 200 feet, with a height of about ninety or 100 at the highest point, descending each way, and forming, when viewed in front, a semi-circle, indented alternately, with projecting and retreating rocks. It keeps this size for several hundred feet, when a gradual diminution takes place, which continues until it is not more than ten feet across, where our progress was stopped by the stream of water which occupies the whole width of the passage, and the water, being dammed up below by a stalactitic incrustation deposited from it, forms a small lake in the bottom of the cave. Its depth appears in some places ten or fifteen feet, and the singular calcareous formation by which it is encompassed, gives it the appearance of a stupendous vase, or bath. The outlet of this natural bath presents, at a depression of ten feet below, another, but smaller lake, encompassed by a similar deposition of calcareous matter, hardened by the absorption of carbonic acid gas from the atmosphere. Large masses of stalagmite, and several columns of stalactite, pendant from the roof, are also found; but the percolation of water, to whose agency the formation of these substances are generally referred, has entirely ceased.

In that part of the cave which is dry, and in the bottom of the brook which runs across it, is found a singular calcareous formation, in the shape of small globules from the size of a grain of sand to that of a musket-bullet, which covers the bottom of the cave to the depth of a foot or more, so that in walking upon it the foot sinks, as if on a bank of loose dry sand. Some appearances of salt-petre are also furnished in crevices of the rock, which is secondary lime-stone; and, upon the whole, the cave, from its extent, which remains unknown, and the number and variety of curious and interesting objects it presents, is well worthy of a day's attention. To explore it, a boat would be necessary. We spent but an hour in it, the hunters being satisfied after gazing a few minutes, and anxious to continue the journey.

On quitting the cave, we entered on a district of country characterized by gentle sloping hills, well wooded with oak and hickory, with some extensive prairies, and a pretty fertile black soil, and encamped last night on the banks of a small stream, affording some handsome sites for plantations. On travelling two miles this morning we entered a rich and extensive valley, and found ourselves unexpectedly on the banks of James' River, the stream we were in search of. It is the principal north western fork of White River, and a large, clear, and beautiful stream. It originates in high-lands, a little south of the Gasconade river, which falls into the Missouri above St. Charles, and running in an opposite direction for two hundred and fifty miles, forms a junction with the south fork of White River, one hundred miles below. Along its banks are found extensive bodies of the choicest land, covered by a large growth of forest-trees and cane, and interspersed with prairies, Oak, maple, white and black walnut, elm, mulberry, hackberry, and sycamore, are the common trees, and attain a very large size. On the west commences a prairie of unexplored extent, stretching off towards the Osage river, and covered with tall rank grass. Towards its mouth, it is said to be bordered with high rocky bluffs. We forded the river on horseback, and pursuing up its western bank about four miles, encamped near the shore, in the vicinity of a lead-mine. Distance six miles. Weather cold and piercing. Killed one prairie-hen and one goose.

Saturday, Jan. 2d.

Calculating to remain here several days previous to our return, we spent the afternoon of yesterday in constructing a comfortable camp, and covering the roof with bark, &c. This morning, at day-light, it commenced snowing, but ceased about eight o'clock, and continued clear, with the exception of occasional flickerings, until two o'clock, when a snow-storm set in, which continued till night, and confined us to our camp. In the interim, we went out to examine the lead-mine, which is situated in the west bank, and in the bottom of the river, as lumps of ore can be seen through the water, which is very clear and transparent. The ore is galena, or sulphuret of lead, accompanied by sulphuret of zinc, and imbedded in the bank of the river in a red clay. The bottom of the river is a rock of secondary lime-stone, stratified. Killed six turkeys and one wolf.

Sunday, Jan. 3d.

The snow ceased during the night, and the sun rose clear, and shone uninterruptedly during the day. The morning was cold, but the snow commenced thawing about nine o'clock, and continued till a little after three, when it commenced freezing. The river, which was open on our arrival, is now covered with ice, except where there are ripples. Employed in exploring the adjacent country and the mines. In the afternoon, selecting specimens of ore, and building a small furnace for smelting lead, as the hunters are desirous of supplying themselves with bullets. Killed two deer and one wolf.

Monday, Jan. 4th.

It began snowing a little after midnight, and continued until day-break. Engaged in digging at the mines, and viewing the country. The prairies, which commence at the distance of a mile west of this river, are the most extensive, rich, and beautiful, of any which I have ever seen west of the

Mississippi river. They are covered by a coarse wild grass, which attains so great a height that it completely hides a man on horseback in riding through it. The deer and elk abound in this quarter, and the buffaloe is occasionally seen in droves upon the prairies, and in the open high-land woods. Along the margin of the river, and to a width of from one to two miles each way, is found a vigorous growth of forest-trees, some of which attain an almost incredible size. The lands consist of a rich black alluvial soil, apparently deep, and calculated for corn, flax, and hemp. The river-banks are skirted with cane, to the exclusion of all other underbrush; and the lands rise gently from the river for a mile, terminating in high-lands, without bluffs, with a handsome growth of hickory and oak, and a soil which is probably adapted for wheat, rye, oats, and potatoes. Little prairies of a mile or two in extent are sometimes seen in the midst of a heavy forest, resembling some old cultivated field, which has been suffered to run into grass.

Near our present encampment are some bluffs, which serve to diversify the scene, and at the foot of which is situated a valuable lead-mine. A country thus situated, cannot fail to present a scene of great beauty in the season of verdure, and even now, in the depth of winter, wears a pleasing aspect. It is a mixture of forest and plain, of hills and long sloping valleys, where the tall oak forms a striking contrast with the rich foliage of the evergreen cane, or the waving field prairie-grass. It is an assemblage of beautiful groves, and level prairies, of river alluvion, and high-land precipice, diversified by the devious course of the river, and the distant promontory, forming a scene so novel, yet so harmonious, as to strike the beholder with admiration; and the effect must be greatly heightened, when viewed under the influence of a mild clear atmosphere, and an invigorating sun, such as is said to characterize this region during the spring and summer. Taking these circumstances into view, with the fertility and extent of soil, its advantages for water-carriage, and other objects, among which its mines deserve to be noticed, it offers great attractions to enterprizing emigrants, and particularly to such as may consider great prospective advantages an equivalent for the dangers and privations of a frontier settlement. The junction of Findley's Fork with James' River, a high, rich point of land, is an eligible spot for a town, and the erection of a new county out of this part of the unincorporated wilderness of Arkansaw, would soon give the settlers the advantages elsewhere enjoyed in civil communities. A profitable fur-trade would be one of the immediate advantages attending such a settlement, Both the Osage and Cherokee nations would soon be drawn to this spot, as the most eligible and convenient point for trading; also, a part of the Pawnees, and some scattered bands of the Delawares and Shawanees of Missouri Territory. A water-communication exists with the Mississippi. Steam-boats may ascend White River to the mouth of its Great North Fork. Keel-boats of twenty tons burthen may, during the greater part of the year, ascend to the mouth of James' River; and boats of eight tons burthen may ascend that to the junction of Findley's Fork, about fifteen miles below our present spot of encampment, to which the navigation may be continued in smaller boats, thus establishing a communication by which the peltries, the lead, and the agricultural products of the country, could be easily, cheaply, and at all seasons, taken to market, and merchandize brought up in return.

Having now satisfied ourselves with respect to the objects of our tour, and the weather rendering a further residence unpleasant, it is determined to begin our journey back to-morrow.

Tuesday, Jan. 5th.

At an early hour, and before the dawn of day, we arose, and began to prepare the last meal we were to partake of on the banks of James' River, and to put ourselves in readiness to leave a camp, and a country which had already become so familiar to us as to appear, in some measure, a home. After breakfast, the hunters went down the river about a mile to bring up their horses, who had, on our arrival, been turned to feed in a cane-brake at that distance. While they were absent, we arranged our travelling packs both for the horses and ourselves, a service in which we had at this time become adepts; and having leisure, while we awaited their return, which was protracted a considerable time by not finding the horses where expected, we blazed a large tree of the species *quercus tinctoria*, that stood near to our camp, and engraved thereon our names, with the date of our visit. Other evidences of our visit to, and occupation of the country, were left in the camp we had erected, the trees we had cut, the furnace put up for smelting ore; and the pits sunk in search of it, &c. At seven o'clock we were ready to commence our return, and crossing the river, a little above our encampment, pursued a south course for the Hunters' Cabins on White River. There was still snow upon the ground, a part of which had fallen during the preceding night, and its whole depth was from two to three inches, lying pretty compact, and somewhat moist, so that the tracks of deer and other animals were plainly imprinted upon it, and if our design had been hunting, these traces would have surely directed us in the pursuit. We were surprised, in fact, by the innumerable tracks of the deer, wolf, elk, bear, and turkey, met with, the snow being completely trodden down in many places with them, and affording a perfect map of their movements. In several instances we observed the places where deer had lain down the night of the snow, the shape of the animal in a reclining posture being left upon the dry leaves, while the surrounding country was covered with snow to a depth of two or three inches. It was evident the animal had lain still during the fall of snow, and arose after it had ceased. These places of rest were located in the open woods, and on the declivities of hills. Though several were passed, I observed none in any other situation, and no protection against the wind or weather was afforded by underbrush, the country being of that open nature which is in a great degree destitute of bushes or shrubbery. It is probable, however, that this animal, in seeking rest at night, chooses that part of a hill which is situated opposite to the point from which the wind, at the time of its lying down, blows, and which is sheltered by the intervening eminence. I am not in possession of a sufficient number of facts to determine this point, which would give to the deer a degree of sagacity that it has not, heretofore, been supposed to possess; but such facts as I do possess go to establish this position. The resting-spots, here noticed, were uniformly situated on south-west declivities. The snow-storm came from the north-east.

Frequently we crossed wolf-trails in the snow, and in one or two instances observed spots where they had apparently played, or fought with each other, like a large pack of dogs, the snow being trod down in a circle of great extent. The turkey, so numerous in this region, had also been driven out of the adjoining valleys of James and Findley Rivers, by the recent snow, in search of food, and we passed over tracts where, for many acres together, the snow was scratched up by this bird to procure the acorns, and the green leaves, roots, and grass below. Our progress being attended with some noise, the game fled at our approach, and either kept out of our sight, or out of the reach of our guns. The deer, however, which is very abundant, was frequently in view, and we sometimes started droves of twenty or thirty at a time. Being suddenly aroused, no animal surpasses the deer in fleetness, and I have enjoyed a high gratification in surveying a frightened troop of them in full speed across an extensive prairie, or barren open woods, where they could be observed for a mile, or more. They will bound twenty feet at a leap, on a gentle declivity. This I have afterwards measured.

The deer, however, has a fatal curiosity, which prompts it, after running five or six hundred yards, to turn around and look back upon its pursuer, and it is at this moment that he is killed. For the hunter, on starting a deer, immediately pursues with all his speed after it, without regarding the noise made among the bushes and upon the earth; for a similar disturbance, excited by the deer itself, prevents it from distinguishing that of its pursuer, and whenever it stops to turn around, at that instant also the hunter is still, and if within shooting distance, say one hundred yards, he fires; but if not, he endeavours to creep up, by skulking behind bushes and trees. If, in this attempt, he is discovered, and the deer takes the alarm, he again follows in the pursuit, assured that it will, in running a certain distance, again turn round and stand still to see whether it is pursued. This extraordinary and fatal curiosity is the cause of so many of these animals being killed, for did they rely unhesitatingly upon that strength and activity of limb with which nature has so admirably provided them for running, no foot-hunter, and no dog, would be able to overtake them.

About noon we reached and forded Findley's Fork, a stream we had encamped upon, in our journey west, on the last day of December. Two miles beyond, in ascending a valley, we discovered a bee-tree, which Mr. Pettibone and myself chopped down. It was a large white oak, (*quercus alba,*) two and-an-half feet across at the butt, and contained, in a hollow limb, several gallons of honey. This was the first discovery of wild honey which accident had thrown in our way, and as soon as the saccharine treasure was laid bare, by cutting open the hollow limb, we began unceremoniously to partake. And although two months' residence in the woods had left little in our personal appearance, or mode of living, to denote our acquaintance with polished society; and our appetites, by continual exercise, the want of vegetable food, and sometimes the total want of food of any kind for one, two, and even three days together, had become voracious and gross, to a degree that excited our own astonishment; yet, when we retired a few yards to view the beastly voraciousness and savage deportment of the two hunters during this sweet quarternary repast, we could not resist the most favourable conclusions concerning our own deportment, and physical decorum upon that occasion. It should here be remarked, that the white hunters in this region, (and I am informed it is the same with the Indians,) are passionately fond of wild honey, and whenever a tree containing it is found, it is the custom to assemble around it, and feast, even to a surfeit. Upon the present occasion we had no bread, which, although it prevented us from partaking so liberally as we otherwise should, did not seem in any degree to operate as a restraint upon them. On the contrary, they ate prodigiously. Each stood with a long comb of honey, elevated with both hands, in front of the mouth, and at every bite left the semi-circular dented impression of a capacious jaw, while the exterior muscles of the throat and face were swelled by their incessant exertions to force down the unmasticated lumps of honey, which rapidly followed each other into the natural repository—the stomach. When this scene of gluttony was ended, the dog also received his share, as the joint co-partner and sharer of the fatigues, dangers, and enjoyments of the chace; and in no instance have we observed this compact between the dog and the hunter to have been violated, for it is recorded in a manner less subject to obliteration or distinction than our fugitive agreements upon paper; it is recorded among the powerful habits of uncivilized man, corporeally and mentally imprinted. The honey then left was tied up in a wet deer-skin, which communicates no taint; and, appended to the saddle of one of the horses, thus carried along. We now emerged from the valley into a level plain moderately elevated, covered with white and black oak, and some underbrush, with a soil susceptible of cultivation, destitute, however, of streams; and sufficiently open to admit of easy travelling. Toward evening we descried, on our right, a valley heavily wooded, and bending off toward the south; and, presuming it to be the valley of Swan Creek, descended into, and pursued it down for two or three miles, and encamped. Distance twenty miles. Killed one deer. Weather moderately cold. The sun has not been sufficiently powerful to melt the snow so as to produce water, but has softened the surface of it a little in exposed situations.

Wednesday, Jan. 6th.

We were deceived in the valley which we yesterday entered. Instead of Swan, it proved to be Buli Creek, also a tributary to White River; but which we should have headed, leaving it wholly on our right, as it is universally known among hunters, and avoided, as a hilly, sterile region, and which, from the similarity in the natural phisiognomy of the hills, trees, soil, and brush, is considered a dangerous place to get lost in, particularly in foggy weather, when the sun cannot be seen. Of the justice of this impression, our journey this day has afforded conclusive proof, being foiled in several successive attempts to cross the adjoining high-lands, and returned upon it, at different places, by its lateral valleys. Thus we spent one half of the day in vain and perplexing endeavours, wandering from one high knoll to another; and, at length, by a lucky hit, succeeded in reaching one of the tributary streams of Swan Creek, upon which, after following it down for several miles, we encamped; distance ten miles. In passing down Bull Creek, and in some places along the valley in which we are now encamped, the tracks of bear upon the snow, some of enormous size, have been very plentifully observed; but as hunting is not our object, we have not pursued them to the dens, and to the hollow trees, into which they have, at this season, retired. These traces, made upon the snow, in the most inclement part of a Missouri winter, show conclusively, that although this animal retires, on the approach of snow and cold weather, into crevices, caves, and fissures in the rock, and into large hollow trees, and other places where he can lie secure and warm; and can there subsist a length of time upon the superabundant fat with which nature has provided him for that purpose, and without any other nutriment; yet he occasionally quits those recesses, and seeks food upon the adjoining plains. It is probable, also, that he frequently changes the place of retirement during the winter-season, and only ventures out of his hiding-place in the mildest days, and at noon, when the power of the sun is at its maximum of heat upon the earth. Hunters kill this animal during the winter-season by tracking him up to his den, either upon the snow, or by the scent of dogs. If tracked to a large cave, they enter, and often find him in its farthest recess, when he is shot without farther difficulty. If a narrow aperture in the rock, dogs are sent in to provoke him to battle; thus he is either brought in sight within the cave, or driven entirely out of it, and while engaged with the dogs, the hunter walks up deliberately to within a few feet, and pierces him through the heart. A shot through the flank, thigh, shoulder, or even the neck, does not kill him, but provokes him to the utmost rage, and sometimes four or five shots are necessary to kill him; for, as he is constantly in motion, it is very improbable that the first shot, however sure the rifle from which it is driven, will penetrate the heart; and it is not uncommon that one, two, or three of the best dogs are killed in the affray, either by the bear, or a mistaken shot from the huntsman, in which case the bear taken by no means compensates for the dogs lost; for a high value is set upon a good dog, and his death is greatly lamented. Neither is such a dog soon forgotten; and his achievements in the chace, his deep-mouthed cry, his agility and fleetness, his daring attack, and desperate gnash, and his dexterity in avoiding the fatal paw of his antagonist, these long continue to be the theme of admiration. When seated around his cabin-fire, the old hunter excites the wonder of his credulous children, gathered into a groupe, to listen to the recital of his youthful deeds, and thus creates in their breasts a desire to follow the same pursuits, and to excel in those hunting exploits which command the universal applause of their companions, and crown with fancied glory the life of the transalleganian hunter, whether red or white.

In the course of the last two days we have also passed, upon different streams, the habitations of the beaver, an animal so highly valued for its fur, and which differs from other quadrupeds in having chosen that part of the vegetable creation for its sustenance which is rejected by all others, viz. the bark of trees. To procure this, it is provided with two large teeth in the under-jaw, set with astonishing firmness, and resembling chissels, by which it is enabled to gnaw or cut down saplings, and even large trees. These, when down, they completely peel, preferring, however, the bark of the smaller limbs and twigs, which are young, tender, and full of sap. Often they so contrive it as to make them fall into the water, where they serve to stop and collect all floating limbs and brush, making a kind of dam, which thus supplies them with food without the labour, (and an immense labour it must be) of gnawing down large trees. There are few descriptions of wood, the bark of which they will not eat. Thus they attack the maple, the mulberry, black walnut, and elm; nor does the astringent and bitter properties of the oak prevent them from making it an article of food. They prefer, however, all barks which have an aromatic, or spicy flavour, and from the number of those trees we find peeled, possess a high relish for several kinds of laurus, which abound in the valleys in this region, particularly spice-wood and sassafras. Being web-footed, their favourite region is the water, and they seldom venture far from the banks of the stream they inhabit, and never travel on to the neighbouring high-lands. They burrow in the banks of the stream above the water level, so that they lie dry: but the mouths of their habitations are situated below the waters, so that it enters them for a distance, and they cannot get out without diving into the water. By this sagacious contrivance they at once exclude the cold air from their habitations, and prevent their being entered by animals which cannot endure to live under water. It is probable many of their natural enemies are thus debarred of their prey. As all other species of animated nature, which has been endowed with sufficient sagacity and foresight for its own preservation by habits and customs peculiar to itself, is also endowed with some peculiar tastes, habits, or propensities, which are prone to work its own destruction; so the beaver, which has wisdom enough to cut down trees and form dams, and elude the vigilance of its enemies, both man and beast, in an hundred ways, yet falls a sacrifice to its passion for high sweet-scented herbs, and spicy barks. It is by a skilful preparation of these, that beaver-trappers are enabled to take such quantities of them. A natural musky substance, taken from the stomach of the beaver, serves as the principal article in the composition of the bait which is put into the trap; some sassafras, and other barks and fragrant herbs, are added; the exact proportions and method of preparation being a secret only known to those who are skilled in trapping, and who are unwilling to communicate the information.

Thursday, Jan. 7th.

The atmosphere, on encamping last night, was clouded up for a change of weather, which we were fearful would prove rain, but a little after midnight it commenced snowing, and continued without intermission until day-light, and at different periods, until four o'clock in the afternoon. Lying down considerably fatigued, we slept soundly, and did not discover the snow until it had fallen some depth upon us, and although I could not relish sleep under such circumstances, both my companion and the hunters maintained ther positions upon the ground until near day-light, when the snow had attained a depth of several inches. We now followed down the valley in which we had encamped about eight miles, in which distance it opened into the valley of Swan Creek, and we found ourselves about ten miles above its junction with White River, upon the banks of this large and beautiful stream, which is richly entitled to the appellation of a river. Some doubt arose here as to the proper course of travelling, the day being cloudy, and the atmosphere obscured with snow; but, in travelling a few miles south, we were rejoiced to find ourselves in sight of the Bald-hill, a well-known land-mark to the hunter in this region, and which I have already alluded to in my journey west. Toward this we steered undeviatingly, without regard to the steepness of the intervening hills or valleys, or the scraggy brush that opposed our progress, and falling into our old trail at its foot, pursued with an accelerated pace toward the Hunters' Cabins. Snow had, however, so much obliterated the track, that we were unable long to continue in it; and, as the thick and clouded state of the atmosphere prevented our guides from judging of our position, we soon became completely lost. In this dilemma, recourse was had to a very novel experiment, and in which I confess I had but little faith. One of the hunters happened to be riding a horse, which he said had, two or three times, on similar occasions, on being left to take his own course, brought him safely either in some well-known spot in the woods where he had before encamped, or to his own house. He determined again to make trial of the horse's sagacity, and throwing the reins loose upon its neck, the animal took its own course, sometimes climbing up hills, then descending into valleys, or crossing over streams, and at last, to the infinite satisfaction of all, and to the surprise of myself and co-travellers, led us to the top of a commanding precipice which overlooked the valley of White River, with its heavy-wooded forest, the towering bluffs on its south-western verge, with the river winding along at their base, and the hunters' cottages, indicated by the curling smoke among the trees, in plain perspective. Joy sparkled in every eye; we stood a moment to contemplate the sublime and beautiful scene before us, which was such an assemblage of rocks and water—of hill and valley—of verdant woods and naked peaks—of native fertility and barren magnificence, as to surpass the boldest conceptions, and most happy executions of the painter's pencil, or the poet's pen. The reins were now resumed, and as we descended the bluff the hunter lavished great encomiums on the sagacity and faithfulness of his horse, whose pedigree and biography we were now entertained with. In due course of narration, it was shown where the horse had originated, what masters he had been subject to, how he could live in the woods without feed, how long he had been the fortunate owner of him, what "hair-breadth escapes" he had made upon his back, &c. &c. All this was mixed with abundance of the most tedious, trifling, and fatiguing particulars, communicated in bad grammar, wretchedly pronounced, so that we were heartily glad when he had arrived at the conclusion, that he was an animal of uncommon sagacity, strength, activity, and worth. For, as in most other biographies, all these words had been wasted to prove the existence of wisdom where it never was, and to make us admire worth which nobody had ever discovered. The end of this dissertation, that had only been interrupted by the occasional stumbling of the beast itself, (which was in reality a most sorry jade,) brought us to within half-a-mile of their cabins, when they both discharged their rifles to advertise their families of our near approach, and in a few moments we were welcomed by dogs, women, and children, all greasy and glad, to the nailless habitations of our conductors. Distance twenty miles.

Friday, Jan. 8*th.*

Once more arrived at the spot where circumstances had condemned us to perform a kind of quarantine during sixteen days on our journey westward, every object appeared familiar to us, and the very stumps and trees around the house, and the lofty spiral rocks which towered in front, seemed objects with which we had enjoyed immemorial familiarity, and contributed in some degree to that buoyancy of spirit which is so natural on the accomplishment of an undertaking, which has been approached with fatigue, and attained with difficulty; for they were regarded as the silent witnesses of some of the most painful of those difficulties and fatigues, and served to awaken a train of reflections and comparisons which were at once exhilarating and satisfactory. We had already determined on returning to Potosi by a different route from that pursued on our outward journey, as well to diversify the tour, as to avoid the distressing situations to which we were often reduced in passing through the wilderness. It only remained to decide upon the route which promised to afford the most interesting field for observation; and both on that account, as well as uniting greater conveniences in travelling, the descent by White River by water seemed to possess decided advantages. We lost no time, therefore, in preparing for our descent, feeling an anxiety to return, which was much heightened by the reflection that we had already consumed more time than we had allotted ourselves for the performance of the entire journey on quitting Potosi, and that our friends would be ready to conclude we had fallen a sacrifice to the dangers of a tour, which few had approbated as adviseable in the outset, and all united in considering as very hazardous.

Saturday, Jan. 9*th.*

Having, in pursuance of this determination, purchased a canoe of the hunters, and made other necessary preparations, we were ready at an early hour in the morning to embark. We now found it necessary again to resume the use of our guns, after having for nearly a month been supplied with provisions by the hunters, and for that purpose had procured a quantity of lead and ball. We also put into our canoe some bear's meat smoked, dried venison, corn-bread, and salt, with a few articles reserved from our former pack, which were either necessary or convenient on encamping. The men, women, and children, followed us down to the shore, and after giving us many directions and precautions, and repeating their wishes for our success, we bid them adieu, and shoving our canoe into the stream, found ourselves, with a little exertion of paddles, flowing at the rate of from three to four miles per hour down one of the most beautiful and enchanting rivers which discharge their waters into the Mississippi. To a width and a depth which entitles it to be classed as a river of the third magnitude in western America, it unites a current which possesses the purity of crystal, with a smooth and gentle flow, and the most imposing, diversified, and delightful scenery. Its shores are composed of smooth spherical and angular pieces of opaque, red, and white gravel, consisting of water-worn fragments of carbonate of lime, hornstone, quartz, and jasper. Every pebble, rock, fish, or floating body, either animate or innanimate, which occupies the bottom of the stream, is seen while passing over it with the most perfect accuracy; and our canoe often seemed as if suspended in air, such is the remarkable transparency of the water. Sometimes the river for many miles washed the base of a wall of calcareous rock, rising to an enormous height, and terminating in spiral, broken, and miniform masses, in the fissures of which the oak and the cedar had forced their crooked roots, and hung in a threatening posture above us. Perched upon these, the eagle, hawk, turkey, and heron, surveyed our approach without alarm, secure in eminent distance. Facing such rocks, the corresponding curve of the river invariably presented a level plain of rich alluvial soil, covered with a vigorous growth of forest-trees, cane, shrubs, and vines, and affording a most striking contrast to the sterile grandeur on the opposite shore. Here the paths of the deer and buffaloe, where they daily came down to drink, were numerous all along the shore, and the former we frequently surprised as he stood in silent security upon the river's brink. The duck, brant, and goose, continually rose in flocks before us, and alighting in the stream a short distance below, were soon again aroused by our approach; thus we often drove them down the river for many hours together, until our repeated intrusion at last put them to effectual flight. Often a lofty ridge of rocks in perspective seemed to oppose a barrier to the further progress of the river, which suddenly turned away in the most unexpected direction at the moment we had reached the fancied barrier, displaying to our view other groupes of rocks, forests, plains, and shores, arranged in the most singular and fantastic manner, and in the utmost apparent confusion, but which, on a nearer inspection, developed a beautiful order and corresponding regularity, such as the intelligent mind constantly observes in the physiognomy of nature, and which appears the more surprising the more minutely it is inspected, analyzed, or compared. Very serpentine in its course, the river carried us toward every point of the compass in the course of the day; sometimes rocks skirted one shore, sometimes the other, never both at the same place, but rock and alluvion generally alternating from one side to the other, the bluffs being much variegated in their exterior form, extent, and relative position, giving perpetual novelty to the scenery, which ever excited fresh interest and renewed gratification, so that we saw the sun sink gradually in the west without being tired of viewing the mingled beauty, grandeur, barrenness, and fertility, as displayed by the earth, rocks, air, water, light, trees, sky, and animated nature; they form the ever-winding, diversified, and enchanting banks of White River.

A short distance below the Hunters' Cabins we passed the mouth of Beaver Creek, a clear stream of thirty yards wide, entering from the left, and remarkable for the number of beavers formerly caught in it. As night overtook us, we descried on the left bank of the river a hunter's cabin, which we found in the occupation of a person of the name of Yochem, who readily gave us permission to remain for the night, having descended the river thirty miles. Here, among other wild meats, we were invited at supper, as a particular mark of respect, to partake of a roasted beaver's tail, one of the greatest dainties known to the Missouri hunter. Having heard much said among hunters concerning the peculiar flavour and delicious richness of this dish, I was highly gratified in having an opportunity of judging for myself, and accepted with avidity the offer of our host. The tail of this animal, unlike every other part of it, and of every other animal of the numerous tribe of quadrupeds, is covered with a thick scaly skin, resembling in texture certain fish, and in shape analogous to a paper-folder, or the bow of a lady's corset, tapering a little toward the end, and pyramidal on the lateral edges. It is cooked by roasting before the fire, when the skin peals off, and it is eaten simply with salt. It has a mellow, luscious taste, melting in the mouth somewhat like marrow, and being in taste something intermediate between that and a boiled perch. To this compound flavour of fish and marrow it has, in the way in which hunters eat it, a slight disagreeable smell of oil. Could this be removed by some culinary process, it would undoubtedly be received on the table of the epicure with great eclat.

Sunday, Jan. 10*th*.

Leaving the hunter's cabin at an early hour, we passed, at the distance of two miles below, the mouth of Bear Creek, a long, narrow, crooked stream, coming in on the right. Near its head, the hunters procure flints for their rifles. Toward evening we passed a hunter's cabin on our right, and about two miles below another on our left, where we concluded to stop for the night, and found it to be the habitation of a Mr. Coker, by whom we were entertained thirty-one days ago on our journey up. He appeared pleased at our return, and our success. Distance twenty-five miles.

Monday, Jan. 11th.

It rained hard during the night, but ceased a little before day-break, when we embarked in our canoe, and descended the river forty miles. This brought us to M'Gary's, where we first struck White River, on crossing the wilderness from Potosi, and where, on the 8th December, we left our horse, and a part of our travelling pack. Sixteen miles below Coker's, alias Sugar-Loaf Prairie, we passed the mouth of Big Creek, a stream of thirty yards wide, entering on the left. Two or three hunters had just located themselves at this place, and were engaged in cutting down trees, and building a house, as we passed. Immediately after passing Big Creek, we met a petty trader coming up stream with a large canoe, in which he had the remains of a barrel of whiskey, and a few other articles intended to be bartered off for skins among the hunters. Of him, anxious to hear how the civilized world was progressing, we inquired the news, but were disappointed to learn that he himself resided at no great distance below, where he had purchased his articles from another trader, and knew nothing of those political occurrences in our own country, about which we felt solicitous to be informed. He evinced, indeed, a perfect indifference to those things, and hardly comprehended the import of such inquiries. He knew, forsooth, that he was living under the United States' government, and had some indefinite ideas about St. Louis, New Orleans, and Washington; but who filled the presidential chair, what Congress were deliberating upon, whether the people of Missouri had been admitted to form a state, constitution, and government, and other analogous matters, these were subjects which, to use his own phraseology, "he had never troubled his head about." Such a total ignorance of the affairs of his own country, and indifference to passing events, in one who possessed enterprise enough to become a river pedlar, surprised us, even here, in this benighted corner of the union. After a confabulation of fifteen or twenty minutes, we parted, he urging his heavy canoe with labour up stream, and we descending with an easy motion of the paddle in the current, which had now imperceptibly acquired greater velocity, and we found ourselves passing with rapidity over the Pot Shoals, a gentle rapid in the river, of which we had been advised, and where, from the descriptions given, we were prepared to encounter difficulties which we did not meet.

In passing seven miles below these shoals, we came in view of a high wall of rocks on the left shore, which we recognized as being situated immediately opposite M'Gary's, where we arrived as day-light threw its last faint corruscations from the west. At the foot of this bluff, and directly in front of M'Gary's, the Little North Fork of White River discharges itself into the main stream, being at the point of junction about fifty yards wide. It is a river estimated to be 100 miles in length, may be ascended a considerable distance with light water-craft, and has some rich alluvion near its mouth, but originates in, and runs chiefly through, a barren region. This is the stream upon whose banks we encamped on the 6th of December, while sojourning in the wilderness, between the great north and south branches of White River.

Tuesday, Jan. 12*th.*

We were cordially welcomed at M'Gary's, and congratulated on our perseverance in visiting a region where travelling was, in their estimation, attended with so much hazard from Indian hostility, and our progress to which had been attended with such accumulated difficulties. They had heard of our two weeks' probation at Holt and Fisher's cabins, during which we had been employed upon their habitations, and in chopping wood, &c. and considered it as an unmanly advantage taken of our situation. On learning from us that the Osage Indians had broken up their hunting encampments in the region about James' River, and retired upon the Grand Osage some weeks previous to our arrival, one of the sons of M'Gary manifested a strong inclination to go out upon a hunting excursion into that quarter, which, on further learning that we had found game abundant, he immediately determined upon, and was ready to set out toward that country at the time we embarked in our canoe this morning. Undoubtedly he will be rewarded with as many skins as he can transport back. In our descent this day, we have passed several hunters' cabins on both banks of the river, but met nothing worthy particular note until our arrival at the Bull Shoals, situated twenty miles below M'Gary's. Here the river has a fall of fifteen or twenty feet in the distance of half-a-mile, and stands full of rugged calcareous rocks, among which the water foams and rushes with astonishing velocity and incessant noise. There are a hundred channels, and the strange navigator runs an imminent risk of being dashed upon the rocks, or sunk beneath the waves, whose whirling boiling and unceasing roar warns him of his peril long before he reaches the rapids. There is a channel through which canoes and even large boats pass with a good depth of water, but being unacquainted with it, we ran the hazard of being sunk, and found our canoe drawn rapidly into the suction of the falls, apprehensive of the result. In a few moments, notwithstanding every effort to keep our barque headed downwards, the conflicting eddies drove us against a rock, and we were instantly thrown broadside upon the rugged peaks which stand thickly in the swiftest part of the first schute, or fall. Luckily it did not fill, but the pressure of the current against a canoe thirty feet in length, lying across the stream, was more than we could counteract, and we had nearly exhausted our strength in vain endeavours to extricate and aright it. For all this time we were in the water, at a depth of two, three, and four feet, at a cool January temperature, but at length succeeded in lifting it over a ledge of rocks, and again got afloat. We now shot down the current rapidly and undisturbed for 600 yards, which brought us to the verge of the second schute, where we twice encountered a similar difficulty, but succeeded, with analogous efforts, in passing our canoe and effects in safety. This is the most considerable obstruction to the navigation of the river we have yet encountered, but is said to be perfectly safe in high tides, when the rocks are buried by the vernal and autumnal floods. At these shoals lead ore (galena,) is found in small lumps, adhering to the rocks in the river and on the shores, with some calcareous spar; and the banks are further rendered interesting by some remains of ancient works, which appear to indicate that it has been the seat of metallurgical operations in former ages, and previous to the deposition of the alluvial soil upon its banks, for beneath this soil are imbedded the *reliqua* in question. Thus imbedded masses of a metallic alloy, manifestly the production of art, with bits of earthen pots, and arrow-heads chipped out of flint, horn-stone, and jasper, are found. The metallic alloy appears, from hardness and colour, to be lead united with silver or tin. It is not well refined, although it may be easily cut with a knife. The earthenware appears to have been submitted to the action of fire, and has suffered no decay. Of all these I procured specimens, of which duplicates are to be seen among the collections of Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill, at New-York.

Having spent some time in our passage over the rapids, and got thoroughly wetted, so that we felt chilly and uncomfortable, we determined to stop at the next cabin which presented itself on the banks of the river. This happened to be the house of Augustine Friend, situated five miles below the shoals, a man of some intelligence, and who has the honour of giving name to a settlement which is forming around him. By him we were treated with much hospitality, and furnished with several facts relative to the geography and productions of the surrounding country. Being an enterprising hunter, as well as a farmer, he has visited the most remote parts of the White River country, and has traversed the region we have just explored. He represents the existence of rock-salt, between the head of the south fork of White River and the Arkansaw; that the Pawnees and Osage Indians make use of it, and that he has seen, and used it, and says it is clear like alum. He is acquainted with the lead-mines on James' River, and represents the bodies of ore as very great; and says that the Pawnee mountains, situated south of the Grand Osage River, afford beautiful black and white marble. Mr. Friend has lately been detained a prisoner by the Osages; but although they stole his beaver traps, and some other articles, he was treated humanely in other respects, and suffered, after a confinement of several weeks, to depart. In relating the particulars of his captivity, and in repeating several anecdotes illustrative of savage life and manners, the time passed imperceptibly away, so that although wet and fatigued on our arrival, it was after ten before we betook ourselves to rest.

Wednesday, Jan. 13th.

Mr. Friend having represented the antiquities in that neighbourhood as worthy of examination, together with the mineral appearances on the hills, situated back from the river, we determined to devote a part of the day to that object. The hills, like every other section of this country noticed, proved stratified masses of secondary lime-stone, covered by a deposit of elder alluvion, the surface of which afforded radiated quartz, and fragments of horn-stone, but no particular indications of a metalliferous character were observed. The antiquities, situated principally on the east bank of the river, at the Bull Shoals, have already been mentioned. Some further appearances of this kind are seen at the distance of half-a-mile below the dwelling of Mr. Friend, where I procured an excellent kind of flint, and some antique bones and arrow-heads, from beneath a heavy bed of alluvion covered by trees. Owing to these little excursions, it was late before we left Friend's settlement. Four miles below we stopped at a Mr. Lee's, being the first Yankee met with in these regions; and, after dinner, went down the river about six miles to J. Yochem's, where we passed the night.

Thursday, Jan. 14th.

Here we concluded to lend our canoe to Mr. Yochem, who in addition to his own, stood in need of it, to carry down bears bacon and pork, to a trader lying at the mouth of the Great

North Fork, of whom he had made some purchases. The distance was computed at thirty-five miles by water, and included some of the most difficult navigation in the river, while by land it was only fifteen. Leaving our baggage therefore to be brought down in the canoe, we took a foot or horse-path leading across the country, and arrived a little before night on the banks of the river, opposite Matney's, at the mouth of the Great North Fork. But we were separated from his house by the river, which was wide and deep; and having no canoe to cross, there seemed no hesitation between lying in the woods, and wading through the river, which we found about four feet deep in the shallowest place, and reached Matney's just at dusk, wet and chilly. Our canoe did not arrive that night. This we attributed to the difficulty in passing two formidable shoals above. The first is situated fifteen miles below J. Yochem's, and is called the Crooked Creek Shoals, being immediately at the mouth of Crooked Creek, a long and devious stream, coming in on the right or south side of the river. The second shoal is five miles lower, and is called the Buffalo Shoals, being situated at the mouth of the Buffalo Fork of White River. This is a large stream, also entering on the south side of the river. It originates near the north banks of the Arkansaw, and is about 180 miles in length. Its banks afford some rich alluvion, and it is a region much resorted to by hunters on account of the abundance of game it affords. The shoals at its mouth are considered the most formidable obstacle to the navigation of White River, and although boats pass and repass at certain stages of water, it may be reckoned an effectual interruption to navigation for all boats over eight tons. From the foot of these shoals, however, to its junction with the Mississippi, the navigation of White River is unobstructed, and the largest keel-boats, barges, and even steam-boats, may in safety ascend, particularly up to the Great North Fork, which enters on the north, about half-a-mile below the spot where we now tarry. There is now a keel-boat lying here, which ascended a few weeks ago on a trading voyage among the hunters and farmers. It is a boat of thirty tons burthen, built at Pittsburgh, and decked and painted off in the neat and convenient style of the generality of Ohio and Mississippi boats of her class, but is prevented from going higher by the Buffalo Shoals. The articles brought up in it, for the purposes of exchange, were chiefly flour, salt, and whiskey, with some coffee, calico, and a few smaller articles. In return, beaver, deer, otter, bear, and raccoon skins, bears' bacon, fresh pork, and beef, in the gross, venison, bees'-wax, honey, and buffalo beef, are taken. From the rates of exchange noticed, I concluded a trading-voyage on this stream is attended with immense profit.

Friday, Jan. 15*th.*

Compelled, by the non-arrival of our canoe, to spend the day at this spot, I determined to improve the time by a ramble through the adjacent country, and to seek that amusement in the examination of rocks, and trees, and mountain-scenery, which was neither to be found in conversation with the inmates of the house, nor in any other way. The natural appearances of surrounding objects wore an interesting character, and though detained here by accident, a diligent search of the whole river could not in all probability have afforded a point uniting, in the circle of a few miles, so many objects calculated to please the eye, or to instruct the understanding. To a geographical situation, the most important in the whole course of the river, it united scenery the most bold and enchanting, and embracing so many objects calculated to awaken and invite attention, that the inquiring traveller could scarcely be disappointed, be his studies or pursuits what they might. Here were beautiful views for the landscape-painter, rocks for the geologist, minerals and fossils for the mineralogist, trees and plants for the botanist, soil for the agriculturist, an advantageous situation for the man of business, and a gratifying view for the patriot, who contemplates with pleasure the increasing settlement, and prospective improvements of our country. Here, the innumerable streams which originate in a district of country 400 miles long, by 200 in breadth, collected into two large and beautiful rivers, unite, and from this point forth to the Mississippi, form a river navigable at all seasons, for boats of the largest burden. From the north, from the south, and from the west of this tract, from the most noted, and from its most unfrequented corners, we here behold the assembled tributaries, flowing in a smooth, broad, deep, and majestic current, between banks of the richest alluvion, covered with the most vigorous growth of vegetable life, and skirted at a short distance by mountains of the most imposing grandeur. But although composed of streams, which originate in sections of country, differing widely in point of fertility, and other natural properties, yet there is a remarkable agreement in that character, most obvious to the sight, its extreme limpidity and want of colour, and which was early seized upon by the French traders on first visiting this stream, in calling it La Rivière Blanche, (White River,) in allusion to the purity of its water.

With such an assemblage of interesting objects around me, I sauntered out to take a nearer view of the face of nature, and spent the day along the shores of the river, in the contiguous forest, or on the naked peaks of the neighbouring hills. The water of the river, at this season of the year, has retired below its banks to its lowest mark, which is about fifteen feet below its flood height, and exposes a high alluvial shore, and a wide gravelly beach on both sides. Here a margin of clean gravel, washed by the water into fanciful piles, and of every shape and colour, affords a delightful and uninterrupted walk for many miles, and by its ever-winding course, and diversified scenery, keeps the eye in continual expectation of something new or interesting, and lightens the fatigue experienced at every step by sinking shoe-deep into the gravel. I amused myself by considering this a collection of mineralogical and geological specimens, brought together from different sections of country by the waters, and deposited here, to illustrate the physical constitution and character of the country. This idea had no sooner occurred, than I began selecting individual pieces of it for examination, and soon had arranged on the shore a cabinet of river pebbles, which it may be curious and amusing to describe.

No. 1. Was a spheroidal pebble of common quartz; colour, grayish white, semi-transparent, and hydrogenous.

No. 2. A rounded mass of carbonate of lime; (compact secondary lime-stone;) colour, smoke gray; fracture, fine earthy.

No. 3. A similar water-worn mass, with a vein of calcareous spar.

No. 4. A pear-shaped pebble of common jasper; colour, a uniform chesnut brown; fracture, conchoidal; hardness, a little inferior to quartz.

No. 5. Granular quartz, rounded by attrition; colour, grayish white; easily crushed between two stones, and falling into fine semi-transparent grains.

No. 6. Hexagonal prism of rock crystal, the angles nearly obliterated by attrition.

No. 7. Rounded fragment of sand-stone; colour yellowish and reddish white; probably referable to the secondary class of rocks.

No. 8. Argillaceous pebble; colour brownish red; easily scratched with a knife.

No. 9. Smooth arguled fragment of red granite.

No. 10. Shiver of horn-stone; colour, bluish grey, translucent, and giving fire with steel.

No. 11. Egg-shaped nodule of flint, enveloped by a hard white silico-calcareous matter; colour, yellowish gray, cloudy, semi-transparent, and readily giving sparks with steel.

No. 12. Common jasper; colour, yellowish brown, veined with yellowish white, and harder than quartz.

No. 13. Tabular fragment of compact lime-stone, with an impression of the Turbinite.

Of these the rock crystal was merely accidental, the calcareous spar and flint very rare, the quartz, sand-stone, and granite, less rare, and the jasper and lime-stone very abundant. Other substances probably exist, and I noticed several species of stone, either calcareous or flinty, so disguised with ferruginous colouring, and other matter, that they were not referable by the eye to any particular species, but may be considered rather as ill-characterized varieties of both these rocks. No indurated clay, or pudding-stone, so common to other western streams; slate, particles of mica, or petrified wood, were noticed, from which it may naturally be concluded that clay-beds are not common on the river; that it yields neither mica or slate, and that the waters are not endued with the properties necessary to petrifaction. The absence also of green-stone, mica-slate, sienite, gneiss, &c. in the country in which the river originates, may hence be inferred; and, in fine, from the collection above described, one would be apt to imagine, without knowing that it actually is so, that the river is made up of streams which traverse, for the most part, a rocky region. This is actually the fact; for although there are very rich bodies of alluvial lands along the immediate margin of White River, and some of its tributaries, yet they are not very extensive, and the country is, generally speaking, a stony region.

Here, then, mineralogical science presents a new standard by which the character and fertility of an unexplored country may be with general accuracy determined, by the examination of the stony products brought down by its rivers. At least, some very useful hints may thus be gathered, and there appears no good reason why a reliance should not be placed upon information thus obtained. It is only judging of a country by samples of its earths and stones brought together by the spontaneous operations of water instead of the hands of man; and in this light the banks of a river, near its mouth, may be considered an abstract of the mineral physiognomy of the land in which it originates.

Having descended along the shore of the river a considerable distance, I now determined to return through the forest, and along the mountain-bluffs which bound the valley at the distance of half-a-mile, and descending them toward the east, join my companion at the mouth of the North Fork before dark. One of the most conspicuous objects among the trees and vegetables which skirt the banks of the river, is the sycamore, (*platanus occidentalis,*) rearing its lofty branches into the air, and distinguished from other forest-trees by its white bark and enormous size. This tree delights to grow on the immediate margin of the river, and overhangs the water's edge on both sides, but is never found to grow in the back part of the forest toward the bluffs, unless there happens to be a pond of water or a small lake there, in which case it is seen skirting its margin all around. So remarkable a fact cannot escape a person of the least observation who descends this river, or indeed any other river in the western states, whose banks are noted for rich alluvial soil, as the Ohio, the Mississippi, Illinois, Wabash, &c. It is never seen on a sterile, or dry soil; on the contrary, it may be considered as the margin-tree of the most recent, moist, black, river alluvion; and the appearance of the one is always a sure indication of the other. Very often it is hollow. This is the same tree called button-wood on the other side of the mountains, (the Alleghanies.) Another vegetable, scarcely less conspicuous, and occupying a similar soil and situation, in the latitude in which it grows, is the reed, called cane in this region, and which I take to be the *cinna arundinacea* of botanists. This plant is common to all the streams of the valley of the Mississippi below the 38 deg. of north latitude, and is first noticed on descending the Ohio, about the falls. These two species skirt the banks of this river from its largest and most remote northern tributary, as high as we have been on James' river thus far, and probably continue to the Mississippi. The other forest-trees and plants noticed at this place, and which may be set down as composing the forests of White River generally, are the following:—

Cotton-wood, (*populus angulata;*) white elm, (*ulmus Americana;*) red elm, (*ulmus fulva;*) buckeye, (*æsculus hippocastanum;*) black walnut, (*juglans nigra;*) white walnut, (*juglans tomentosa;*) white ash. (*fraxinus acuminata;*) swamp-ash, (*fraxinus juglandifolia;*) white oak, (*quercus alba;*) red oak, (*quercus rubra;*) sugar maple, (*acer saccharinum;*) mulberry, (*callicarpa Americana;*) dogwood, (*cornus florida;*) sassafras, (*laurus sassafras;*) persimmon, (*diospyros virginiana.*)

To these the valleys will add spice-wood, papaw, wild cherry, hemlock, several species of grapes, the wild pea, &c.; and the bluffs and high-lands, white and yellow pine, mountain-ash, post-oak, and cedar. The wild hop is also indigenous to the river alluvion, and the crab-apple, red plumb, and black haw, upon the plains. Many others might be added, but these are the most conspicuous on passing through a White River forest, and such as would readily attract the eye. As I approached the foot of the bluffs, vegetation became more scanty; in my ascent, at the height of one hundred feet above the forest level, the rocks were entirely naked, presenting an almost perpendicular wall to the river, but the summit was covered by yellow pine and cedar, sustained by a deposite of oceanic alluvion. The height of this bluff may be estimated at three hundred feet above the water. It runs parallel with the river, at the distance of from a quarter to half-a-mile, and is much broken and interrupted by lateral valleys and streams. It is uniformly, so far as could be examined without the labour of digging and clearing away the rubbish at its base, a mass of stratified secondary limestone, with impressions of univalve shells near its summit. On my descent I was surprised to observe, about half-way down, very large angular masses of common white quartz, resting upon the tabular rocks of carbonate of lime, and manifestly out of place. Being discoloured externally by the weather, and by atmospheric dust and moss, I at first mistook these rocks for lime-stone; but on hammering off several corners, perceived them to be quartz. This set me looking sharply round to discover some primitive strata from which they might have been detached, but I was unable to detect any, and I must leave the phenomenon unexplained.

That small pieces of quartz rock should have been detached from primitive strata in distant parts of the country, and deposited upon secondary lime-stone with other alluvial matter by water, excites no surprise, even if the masses weigh a ton, or more; but to see masses of the size of a common house, presenting angles of fourteen to twenty feet, and probably weighing an hundred tons a piece, is certainly extraordinary, and does not admit of a ready explanation upon any principle of alluvial deposits now taught. They could not have fallen from the mountainous heights above, for those heights are composed of shell lime-stone. Have these masses of quartz been ejected by volcanic fire, or is it possible that any power of water could have upborne them to the elevated heights they now occupy?

Saturday, Jan. 16*th.*

On returning from the woods yesterday, the hunters had not yet arrived with our canoe, but made their appearance at dusk, accompanied by several neighbours and friends in their canoes, who also came down to trade, making a party of twelve or fourteen in all. Whisky soon began to circulate freely, and by the time they had unloaded their canoes, we began plainly to discover that a scene of riot and drinking was to follow. Of all this, we were destined to be unwilling witnesses; for as there was but one house, and that a very small one, necessity compelled us to pass the night together; but sleep was not to be obtained. Every mouth, hand, and foot, were in motion. Some drank, some sang, some danced, a considerable proportion attempted all three together, and a scene of undistinguishable bawling and riot ensued. An occasional quarrel gave variety to the scene, and now and then, one drunker than the rest, fell sprawling upon the floor, and for a while remained quiet. We alone remained listeners to this grand exhibition of human noises, beastly intoxication, and mental and physical nastiness. We did not lie down to sleep, for that was dangerous. Thus the night rolled heavily on, and as soon as light could be discerned in the morning we joyfully embarked in our canoe, happy in having escaped bodily disfiguration, and leaving such as could yet stand, vociferating with all their might like some delirious man upon his dying bed, who makes one desperate effort to arise, and then falls back in death.

Half-a-mile below Matney's, we passed the mouth of the Great North Fork, a stream which we had followed down, to within ten miles of its mouth, as detailed in the former part of this journal. Six miles below, we passed a swift run of water in the river called the Crooked Rapids. They are no wise dangerous or difficult to be passed.

Ten miles more brought us in sight of the Calico Rock, a noted bluff in a sudden bend of the river. It is one of those rare and fanciful works of nature which are seldom met with, and is approached under circumstances well calculated to heighten the effect of a scene in itself very striking and picturesque. On turning a bend in the river, suddenly the rock appears before you at the distance of 600 yards, and seems, as you glide toward it, to present a barrier to the progress of the river. It is a lofty smooth wall of stratified lime-stone rock, presenting a diversity of colour in squares, stripes, spots, or angles, all confusedly mixed and arranged according to the inimitable pencil of nature, and hence its name. People tell you, that all kinds of rocks are here to be found, and an opinion is prevalent that metallic substances of great value exist in these rocks. The deception is naturally created, and readily believed in by those who only look upon the surface of things; but a little examination shows the fallacy of appearances. Instead of being composed of many rocks differing in their component parts, it is one rock of the same substance, and internally of the same colour and texture, namely, floet limestone. This is overlayed by a stratum of ochery clay, and red and greenish coloured earths, full of ferruginous particles, which have been washed by rains into the crevices of the horizontal strata of stone, and thence oozing down the surface, have communicated to it different colours. These have been in some degree altered, variegated, or set by the acids and juices of oak and other leaves: also extracted by rains, giving to the surface of the rock a singular appearance, of what the German mineralogists, with peculiar significancy, term *angelaufenen farben*, (tarnished colours.) Fourteen miles below the Calico Rock we stopped for the night, on the left bank of the river, at Jeffery's, having canoed thirty miles.

Sunday, Jan. 17*th.*

On descending five miles, we stopped at a Mr. Williams's to prepare breakfast. Here some hunters were gathering to hear an itinerant preacher. Thirty miles below, we stopped for the night at widow Lafferty's, on the right bank of the river. Some excitement prevails among the people occupying the right bank of White River, on account of the recent treaty concluded with the Cherokee Indians. By it those Indians relinquish certain tracts of land in the state of Tennessee, but are to receive in exchange the lands lying between the north bank of the Arkansaw, and the south bank of White River. Those people, therefore, who have located themselves upon the right bank of the river, and improved farms, are now necessitated to relinquish them, which is considered a piece of injustice.

Monday, Jan. 18*th.*

Much had been said along the river, respecting a tin mine reported to exist on the north bank of the river in this vicinity, and although not prepared to find this metal among secondary rocks, I had determined to make it a point of particular inquiry, and after descending the river five miles this morning, stopped about the hour of breakfast, at the house of the person (Mr. Jones,) on whose lands the discovery was reported to have been made. He confirmed all we had heard on the subject; said that a very large body of singular ore, supposed to be tin, had been found some eight or ten miles north of his house, on the high-lands; that it lay in a valley upon the surface of the earth, upon a kind of rotten lime-stone rock, with a small stream running by, &c. He now produced some lumps of the ore. It was a species of the mountain iron-ore, (iron glance,) of a bluish gray colour, great weight, and possessed considerable metallic lustre; destitute, however, of those tarnished colours which serve to beautify the surface of certain varieties of specular iron glance. This incident seems to show how readily persons who have devoted little attention to the subject, are deceived in the appearances of a mineral, and how prone they are to ascribe to it a value which it does not possess.

At the distance of fifteen miles below Jones's, we passed Hardin's Ferry; dwelling-house on the south bank. Here the main road from Missouri to Arkansaw crosses the river, and a mail is carried from St. Louis to the post of Arkansaw, (now the seat of Territorial Government, March 1820,) once a month. Two miles below is Morrison's Ferry, a branch of the same road crossing there, and eight miles farther Poke Bayon, a village of a dozen houses, situated on the north bank of the river, where we arrived at about four o'clock in the afternoon, and were entertained with hospitality by Mr. Robert Bean, merchant of that place.

A gradual change in the face of the country for the last thirty miles, before reaching this spot, is observable. The bottom lands, as you descend, increase in width; the bluffs become more remote, and decrease in height, and finally disappear a few miles above Hardin's Ferry, where that extensive alluvial formation, which reaches to the banks of the Mississippi, commences. From this fork, the scenery is unvaried. A rich level plain, covered with heavy forest-trees and canebrake, extends as far as the eye can reach, on both banks of the river, gradually depressed toward the Mississippi, where it is subject to semi-annual inundation. At this place, the banks are elevated thirty feet above the present level of the water, and are subject to falling in during the high spring and autumnal floods. In other respects, the situation of Poke Bayon is pleasant, and advantageous as a commercial and agricultural depôt. Here we concluded to quit the river, and pursue the Arkansaw road, on foot, through Lawrence, Cape Girardeau, Wayne, and Madison counties, toward Potosi. As a preparatory step, we have disposed of our canoe, skins, &c. and provided ourselves with travelling knapsacks.

Tuesday, Jan. 19th.

Before leaving the banks of White River, it is due to the hardy, frank, and independent hunters, through whose territories we have travelled, and with whom we have from time to time sojourned, to say, that we have been uniformly received at their cabins with a blunt welcome, and experienced the most hospitable and generous treatment. This conduct, which we were not prepared to expect, is the more remarkable, in being wholly disinterested, for no remuneration in money for such entertainment, (with a very few exceptions,) was ever demanded; but, when presented, uniformly refused, on the principle of its not being customary to accept pay of the traveller, for any thing necessary to his sustenance. Nor can we quit the house at which we have here been made to feel our return to the land of civilization, after an absence of several months, without a grateful expression of our sense of the kind civilities and generous attention with which we have been treated. There is but one thing I have to regret on my departure from Poke Bayou; it is my inability to carry along my entire collections in natural history, too bulky and too heavy to be conveyed in a shoulder pack, the only mode of transportation at our command. Selecting, however, such as were most rare or interesting, either from locality, or physical constitution, I filled my pack to a point, which, superadded to the weight of a gun, rifle, pouch, portfolio, &c. I judged myself capable of carrying; and we left Poke Bayou at ten o'clock, taking the high-road toward the north-west. For the first five miles we passed across the alluvial tract, extending northwardly to the river, on which several farms and plantations are located, and the country wears a look of agricultural industry and increasing population. The farms, the improvements upon them, and the road we travelled, all appeared new. The houses were constructed of logs, and the lands fenced with rails laid in the zig-zag manner practised in western Virginia and Kentucky. We now entered on the secondary lime-stone formation, which bounds the Mississippi alluvion on the west, a tract of country gently elevated, covered with a flinty soil and scanty vegetation, and indented by innumerable little valleys, which give it a rough and barren aspect. On this are found no settlements in the distance of thirteen miles, during the last mile of which I had wrenched my ancle in such a way as to render it extremely painful in walking, and we stopped early in the afternoon, at a small plantation fortuitously at hand.

Wednesday, Jan. 20*th.*

An application of dissolved muriate of soda and flannels, surcharged with microcosmic salts in natural solution, did little to mitigate the swelling of my foot; and, after a night passed in sleepless anxiety, I arose without feeling any sensible diminution of pain, and without the ability to continue the journey on foot. This accident could not have happened at a spot where medical aid, or the conveniency of transportation, was in all probability more completely out of reach, and one of the most unpleasant delays threatened to ensue. Here chance supplied, as it frequently happens, what could not have been procured in any other way. A traveller passing on horseback agreed, for a trifling compensation, to let me ride his horse to the banks of the south fork of Strawberry River, while he himself performed the journey on foot. This helped me twelve miles, and we arrived about noon. The road lay across an uninhabited tract, much cut up by little valleys, worn out of shelly limestone, and covered with a stratum of gravelly clay, bearing post oaks and black oaks. A mile before reaching the river we entered upon an alluvial plain, which continued to the village seated upon its margin. Here were fifteen buildings, scattered along the banks of the stream, including a small grist-mill turned by water, a whisky-distillery, a blacksmith's-shop, and a tavern. Feeling somewhat relieved, I concluded to hobble on four miles farther to the main stream of the river, where we arrived before night, and stopped at a farmer's house; my foot having in the meanwhile become exceedingly painful.

Thursday, Jan. 21st.

It was in vain to attempt travelling under such circumstances. I determined to halt, and await the recovery of my foot, while Mr. Pettibone, anxious to terminate a journey which had already been protracted to an unexpected length, concluded to proceed alone toward St. Louis; and we parted at nine o'clock, after having mutually shared the inconveniences of a pedestrian journey through the woods for seventy-five days.

Friday, Jan. 22d.

Left alone, my impatience of delay increased, and I lost the benefit of no application which circumstances, diligence, or the united skill of my hostess and myself could supply. Forty-one hours thus devoted, superadded to the advantages of rest, abated the swelling of my ancle, and enabled me without great inconvenience to walk. I determined, therefore, to proceed by easy stages for several days, until it became sufficiently invigorated to permit a bolder step, and crossed the Strawberry River this morning at nine. Proceeding with an easy pace, and by frequent resting, I gained ten miles by night, and stopped at the Dogwood Spring, a noted resting-place on the dividing ridge between Strawberry and Spring Rivers, named in allusion to the *cornus florida*, abundant there. The alluvial soil continued two miles beyond the banks of Strawberry, and for that distance improved farms and dwellings skirted the road; then commenced a calcareous ridge, undulated by valleys running parallel to the general course of the rivers, sterile in appearance, and wholly without improvements. On every declivity the strata of secondary rock were exposed to view. Within five miles of the Dogwood Spring I passed a large body of vitreous iron ore, (the brown hæmatite of mineralogists,) on descending a hill on the right side of the road. It lies scattered over the surface of the earth for many acres.

Saturday, Jan. 23d.

Ten miles beyond this brought me to the banks of Spring River, a large and beautiful stream, which originates in one large spring forty miles above, and, after receiving the river Elevenpoints, unites with Black River ten miles below. It is a clear stream, and affords considerable bodies of choice intervale. A mile before reaching it the alluvial soil commences. Here Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, cotton, and tobacco, all flourish in the same field.

Sunday, Jan. 24th.

I was carried across the river in a canoe. A mile beyond, the river bottom terminates, and I ascended the calcareous ridge of secondary rock which separate its waters from those of Elevenpoints. Neither the soil, the vegetation, nor geological character of the country, present any variations entitled to notice. At twelve o'clock I reached the banks of Elevenpoints, and was ferried over in a canoe. This stream is nearly as large as Spring River, with which it unites three miles above its junction with Big Black River. Its waters are beautifully clear, and it affords a strip of alluvion a mile across from hill to hill.

Davidsonville, the seat of justice of Lawrence county, is situated seven miles eastwardly, on the point of land formed by the junction of Spring with Black River. It unites the advantages of an uninterrupted water-communication through White River with the Mississippi, and through that with the ocean, but is a place of little note or importance at present. Half a mile beyond the north bank of the Elevenpoints, the ridge of secondary calcareous rock, separating its valley from that of Fourche à Thomas, is struck, and the road winds along through a sterile and uninhabited country for nine miles. On one of the highest elevations of this intervening ridge, and equi-distant from both streams, I passed a bed of black oxide of manganese. It possesses little weight, is earthy, and soils the finger like soot. Some red oxide is in combination. The quantity is immense. As day-light withdrew, I entered the valley of Fourche à Thomas, having travelled nineteen miles.

Monday, Jan. 25th.

Fourche à Thomas is a stream of lesser size than either Strawberry or Elevenpoints; it affords, however, some excellent lands, and the alluvial formation, though not extensive, is very rich, and several large and well-improved farms decorate its valley. It originates in high-lands forty miles west, and unites with Black River, after winding a course of fifty miles. Settlements continue to the north of this stream six miles, and the ridge of high-lands by which it is divided from the Currents River, is less elevated, less rocky, better wooded, and better calculated for agriculture, than those already mentioned. The distance, therefore, between these two streams, which is sixteen miles, appears less to the foot-traveller on that account, as there is more to occupy the eye, and less to weary the feet; for while we are viewing plantations, and the habitations of man occasionally interspersed among the woods, the time and the distance pass imperceptibly away, but the unvaried barrenness of the wilderness is tiresome. The eye seizes with avidity any new object which promises variety, and this variety is ever more pleasing when associated with the idea of being useful, and capable in some way of promoting the happiness, or subserving the economy of human life. The rock strata, where apparent, are calcareous, and secondary. The *quercus tinctoria* is the most common tree. Two miles before reaching the Currents, the river alluvion commences. Its fructuferous qualities are at once recognised by the unusual size of the trees, cane, and shrubbery, by which it is covered. At three o'clock I reached the banks of the river at Hicks' Ferry, and was conveyed over in a ferry-flat, or scow. This is the fifth river I have passed since leaving Poke Bayou, in a short distance of ninety miles, all running parallel with each other from west to east, separated by similar ridges of calcareous rock, having analogous alluvions on their banks, and all discharging their waters into Black River, which, like an artificial drain, runs nearly from north to south, and, catching their waters, conveys them through White River into the Mississippi. That singular stream, which itself preserves an exact parallelism with the Mississipi during its whole course, is not less remarkable for the number of streams it receives from the west, than for receiving no tributary of any magnitude in its whole course from the east. This is owing to a singular configuration of the country, the examination of which would, perhaps, prove very interesting to the geologist as well as the geographer, and possibly throw some new light on the subject of alluvial deposits, the circumstances under which they have been formed, their relative ages, and other contemporaneous matters, which have not received a proper degree of consideration. The lack of tributaries from the east bank of Black River, results from the alluvial tract extending from its eastern bank to the western bank of the Mississippi, and which has a gradual descent from the former to the latter, draining off the waters even from within 100 yards of its banks. On the west it is successively swelled, as you traverse the country from White River northward, by Strawberry, Spring River, Elevenpoints, Fourche à Thomas, and the Currents, all streams of considerable magnitude, and entitled to the particular notice of the future geographers of Missouri and Arkansaw. Of these, the Fourche à Thomas is the smallest, and the Currents by far the largest. The latter is, indeed, a noble stream. It is 1,000 feet wide at the Ferry, and has an average depth of eight feet. It originates in springs in the Missouri barrens, 250 miles west, and affords, in its whole length, bodies of alluvial lands well worthy the attention of the planter and speculator. Its sources are amidst bluffs of secondary limestone, which are extremely cavernous, and afford saltpetre. Our residence for several days in one of these caves, while passing through these regions in the month of November of the last year, has already been detailed in a former part of this journal. At Hicks's Ferry, a town is in contemplation. The site is dry, airy, and eligible, and will command many advantages for mercantile purposes. A mile and a half north, the alluvial tract is succeeded by secondary limestone, rising in elevated ridges, which serve to separate the valley of Currents from that of Little Black River. Here night approached, and I stopped six miles north of the Currents, at a farmer's house that happened to be contiguous, having performed a journey of twenty-three miles.

Tuesday, Jan. 26th.

Thirteen miles beyond this, I entered the valley of Little Black River, a stream of clear water ninety feet wide, with a swift current. This is the principal south branch of Black River, and joins the main stream seven miles below. The alluvion on its banks is not extensive. Some improvements are however made, and the newness of the buildings, fences, and clearings, indicate here, as at every other inhabited part of the road for the last 100 miles, a recent and augmenting population. This is chiefly composed of emigrants from Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Two miles north of Little Black River I halted for the night, at an early hour, my foot giving symptoms of returning lameness. Distance fifteen miles.

Wednesday, Jan. 27th.

The ensuing sixteen miles brought me to the banks of Big Black River, a large and rapid stream, being the seventh river crossed in a distance of 130 miles; and all of which are ultimately united in this. I was ferried over in a canoe, and lodged a mile beyond, at a house seated at the intermediate points, where the river alluvion is terminated by calcareous rock. I here found myself in Wayne county, according to a late division of Lawrence, by the territorial legislature of Missouri. Agriculture forms the principal employment of the inhabitants along this stream, and its tributaries. A small proportion are mechanics, less merchants, and very few professional men. The soil and climate are considered favourable for the different species of our domesticated graminea. Wheat and corn are the surest, and most advantageous crops. Rye, oats, flax, and tobacco, are also cultivated, the latter partially; and cotton is also grown, but not as a market crop, merely for family convenience, and domestic consumption. The raising of cattle has also engrossed considerable attention in this section of country, and graziers have been well remunerated. St. Louis, St. Genevieve, Kaskaskia, and other distant markets, have drawn a part of their supplies from this quarter. This business, which was very inviting at first, having been carried to excess, has produced a natural re-action, and it is not now considered an object to drive their stock to remote markets.

Thursday, Jan. 28th.

The road from Black River to the river St. Francis, a distance of seventeen miles, lies for the first eight miles across an elevated ridge of secondary lime-stone rock, intersected by deep valleys, running in all directions, which give it somewhat the appearance of a plain full of high conical hills. These are covered with a stony soil, that sustains a growth of yellow pine. The remainder of the road is carried along a gravelly, dry valley, that winds among similar bluffs to the river, and there terminates in the alluvial formation of the St. Francis. Here is a village of ten or fifteen houses, including a grist-mill; and a public ferry is kept by Dr. Bettis. The St. Francis is a large stream, and waters a great extent of country. Its length is stated at 500 miles; near its head are situated the valuable lead-mines of La Motte, and the iron mountain of Bellevieu is situated on its principal south-western branch. Toward its junction with the Mississippi, the lands are low and overflowed. The greater part of the fine rich alluvial margin of this stream is, however, susceptible of successful cultivation, and it is already the seat of one of the most rich and populous agricultural settlements in the territory. I crossed the ferry at Battis' at three o'clock, and lodged six miles beyond, on the road to St. Michael's, having travelled twenty-three miles. I have this day observed the *hamamelis virginica* in blossom.

Friday, Jan. 29th.

I was on the road toward St. Michael this morning before day-light. After travelling a mile, it commenced raining, and poured down incessantly, until I reached the next house, being seven miles. There, as the rain continued, I remained until the next day.

Saturday, Jan. 30th.

The rain continued with extraordinary violence during the greater part of the night. The morning was cloudy and unsettled. I proceeded twenty miles, and lodged near the banks of the St. Francis, on the road toward Bellevieu. A vast quantity of water had fallen upon the earth, and the streams were swollen to an unusual height. Every small brook was increased to a torrent, and channels dry at ordinary seasons were now filled with water. The earth, also, was completely surcharged, and wherever it consisted of alluvion, deep mud was the consequence. This rendered travelling very fatiguing. On proceeding five miles along the main road, the country became very rough and barren, and here blocks of granite were found, reposing promiscuously upon secondary lime-stone. These fragments of primitive rock, at first scattering, soon became abundant, and in the course of the succeeding mile I found myself in a region of granite. Here the country bore a very rugged aspect, and the road wound about among piles and hills of granite rock, in which no stratification, and no order of arrangement, could be observed. This is the older red granite of geologists, consisting chiefly of flesh-coloured feldspar mixed with quartz, and a very little mica, the former ingredient, however, predominating. It extends about twenty miles north-westwardly, and has a breadth of about six or eight, being surrounded on all sides by secondary rocks, and is at once the most singular and interesting object in the geological character of the whole valley of the Mississippi, so far as yet discovered. So considerable a body of primitive rock, in the midst of so unparalleled an extent of secondary strata, furnishes an interesting subject of inquiry, and its occurrence is certainly without a parallel in the scientific annals of our country. Its geognostic situation is, however, readily explained by either of the theories at present taught; but whether this mass of granite is the peak of a preexisting mountain, around which the calcareous rock has subsequently been deposited, or whether since upheaved by volcanic fire, will admit of some doubt. The existence of blocks of granite, reposing upon calcareous rock, a mile distant from the main body, and where nothing short of a volcanic power appears capable of having thrown or conveyed them, seems to favour the latter hypothesis.

Sunday, Jan. 31st.

The weather continued cloudy and unsettled. On reaching the ford of the St. Francis I found the river so flooded by the late rains, that it was impossible to cross without a canoe, and this was wanting. Thus defeated in my intention of visiting the Irom mountain, and the granite ridges of Bellevieu, I pursued up the banks of the north-eastern branch of the river, through a populous settlement, for a distance of ten miles, and passed the night at a planter's, four miles below St. Michael. The granitic rock has been constantly in view.

Monday, Feb. 1.

I advanced but three miles this day. During the morning it rained, and continued, with occasional cessations, until night. Much had been told me of the natural appearances of the Narrows, where the river is compressed between lofty hills of granite, and of the shaking of the earth, sometimes experienced there. It is seldom that these relations of the country people are entitled to any credit, and my own experience abundantly satisfies me, that the traveller who turns out of his way to see surprising things, on no better authority, is often sent on a fool's errand. I was disappointed, therefore, to find the Narrows of St. Francis well worthy of a visit. Here the river, narrowed to half its width, forces itself between two elevated ridges of red granite, and brawling over its rugged bed, pitches, at successive leaps, twenty or thirty feet in the distance of half a mile. These ridges rise to a height of six or seven hundred feet, and are capped with oak-trees, except on the sides facing the river, where the rock, during the lapse of ages, fallen off, and the fragments rolling downwards, so accumulated as to give the ridges the appearance of two mighty and confused piles of granitic stones. No signs of vegetable life are found upon them. At the water's edge, there is a vein of micaceous iron ore, which is considered silver by the neighbouring people. Some blocks of greenstone porphyry are also seen among these interesting mineral ruins. Radiated quartz, iron pyrites, and a species of massive mountain iron ore, are also the production of this region. The contiguous calcareous strata on the east afford galena and blende. During that remarkable series of earthquakes which this country, in common with all the valley of the Mississippi, experienced in December, 1811, and which continued with intermissions until 1813, large masses of granite rock were shook from these heights, and precipitated into the valley of the St. Francis. The effects of these dreadful earthquakes are still visible in many parts of Missouri and Arkansaw, but the most striking alterations were made in the alluvial district of New-Madrid county, the capital of which was, in part, precipitated into the Mississippi, and, the natural physiognomy of that country is much disfigured by eruptions and by lakes. It is even added, that a tremulous motion of the earth is still sometimes observable in that section of country. The most interesting, and, indeed, the only condensed body of facts, relative to these earthquakes, which is to be found among the literary papers of the United States, were collected and published by Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill, in the *first volume of the Transactions of the Literary and Philosophical Society of New-York.*

Tuesday, Feb. 2d.

I determined to make another attempt to cross into Bellevieu by the upper ford of the St. Francis; but here also I found the water too deep, and was compelled to pursue the more circuitous route through St. Genevieve county. A mile's travelling brought me into St. Michael, a village of sixty houses, and the county seat of Madison, according to a recent act of the legislature. It has three stores and a post-office. This village was originally settled by the French, and has for many years been in a state of decline; but since its selection as the seat of justice for the new county, has received what is called *a start*, that is, has rapidly improved in appearance. Here a road diverges to St. Genevieve, which is situated thirty miles east on the banks of the Mississippi. Two miles beyond St. Michael, on the road toward St. Louis, we pass the lead-mines of La Motte. The road runs among the excavations, which are very numerous, and cover a great extent of country. The ore worked is a sulphuret; it is found reposing in beds in alluvial soil, without any matrix. The rock strata here are calcareous: two miles south-west commences the tract of insular granite. These mines have been worked with little interruption for a century, and are not yet exhausted; but, on the contrary, yield as much metal as formerly. Large piles of the ore, crystallized in shining facets, were lying near the road as I passed, and a number of workmen engaged either in the excavations, or smelting. Nine miles beyond the mines, the traveller enters Cook's settlement, a fine district of land in the interior of St. Genevieve county, with a rapidly increasing population. Here I reposed for the night.

Wednesday, Feb. 3d.

A tract of oceanic alluvion extends from this to the banks of Big River, a distance of twenty miles, in the course of which a number of plantations are passed, but the country is susceptible of more extensive improvements, and will, no doubt, in a short time, attract a portion of that emigration which is now flowing into all parts of the valley of the Mississippi and the Missouri. Murphy's settlement, at the distance of eight miles beyond Cook's, is already a large and flourishing neighbourhood of industrious farmers, and presents many well-cultivated fields, fenced in a neat and substantial manner, with young apple and peach-orchards, and framed dwelling-houses, clap-boarded in the eastern style. There is also a post-office in this settlement, where a mail is received once a-week, a school-house, and a physician resident. All these things indicate the wealth, the industry, and the intelligence of the inhabitants.

Between Murphy's settlement and Big River, there are no settlements. As you approach the banks of the latter, the lands gradually descend, and terminate in a very rich river alluvion. Its width is nearly a mile from hill to hill, and it is the seat of numerous plantations and well-cultivated farms, where large quantities of wheat and corn are raised. A great proportion of the former is floured for exportation, and of the latter, distilled for the same purpose. This river describes in its course the form of a horse-shoe around the extensive lead-mines of Washington county, in the centre of which stands its capital, Potosi, and affords some facilities to the transportation of goods. It originates on table lands, which separate its waters from those of the St. Francis, and forms a junction with the Merrimack thirty miles above the confluence of that river with the Mississippi. Near the head of Big River are situated some of the most extensive and valuable iron-mines, though not worked, in America, and the calcareous rocks bordering its banks are decidedly the most metalliferous strata, in ores of lead, which the United States, or any mining district of Europe or America affords.

Thursday, Feb. 4th.

From this spot, (Hale's on Big River,) the roads diverge eastwardly to St. Genevieve, northwardly to Herculaneum and St. Louis, and westwardly to Potosi, which is situated at a distance of fifteen miles. Toward this I hastened with a buoyancy of spirit, consequent upon the reflection that the termination of my journey was at hand. After crossing the ford, and the alluvial bottoms extending westwardly from the river, the road winds up a succession of elevated hills for the distance of three or four miles. Here commences a sterile plain, indented with gentle valleys, watered by innumerable rivulets, and covered with a very uniform growth of black oaks and post oaks, and in the summer season by a vigorous undergrowth of wild grass, flowers, and vines. The soil is a deep stratum of red marly clay, interspersed with shivers of hornstone and jasper, radiated quartz, and heavy spar. These evidences of the existence of lead-ore in the earth denoted my approach to Potosi; where I arrived at three o'clock in the afternoon, after an absence of ninety days, and having travelled more than nine hundred miles.

TRANSALLEGANIA,

OR

THE GROANS OF MISSOURI.

A Poem.

BY H. R. SCHOOLCRAFT,

> "The things we know are rich and rare,
> But how the devil came they there!"
>
> POPE'S LETTERS.

WHEN wilds that were lately the panther's retreat,
Were turned to plantations and covered with wheat;
When emigrants thickened, and congress debates,
Turned full on the west, and they cut off new states;
The king of the metals, (who deep, under ground,
Reposed with his subjects in slumber profound,)
Alarm'd by the tumult he heard on the earth,
From Mexico travelled in haste to the north;
Nor paused he for river, or mountain, or plain,
Till he reached the frontiers of his golden domain;
There stopped on a mountain, all reeking with heat,
('The Arkansaw winding along at his feet,)
And surveyed with amazement the torrent that prest—
The stream of migration that rolled to the west.
From mountain to mountain a prospect he takes—
From the gulph on the south to the northern lakes,
And all the wide scene, valley, hillock, and glen,
Resounds with the tumult of business and men:
They are driving the savage before them amain,
And people each forest, and culture each plain.
He sees how they struggle with fortune and fate,
How toil to be happy, and pant to be great:
He hears the axe sounding on every hill,
And the woods are re-echoing liberty's thrill:

All countries and climates, "the bond and the free,"
To people the wilderness closely agree,
From Maine's rocky borders the emigrants pour,
And are leaving the fruitful Connecticut's shore,
The Hudson, Potomac, and Delaware, sigh,
For friends who had quit them, they hardly knew why;
The exiles of Europe, the poor, the oppress'd,
All, all, they are bending their steps to the west.
One object impels them, one passion inspires—
The rage for improvement, for wealth the desires;
And alike in all countries, conditions, and states,
This passion is cherished, prevails and inflates;
The rich in it see an increase of estate,
And the poor are still flattered by hopes to be great.
Thus season on season new converts engage,
And support and augment the migratory rage:
Now here and now there its direction it turns,
On Wabash it kindles, on Miami burns,
And now on the fertile Scioti delights,
And now on the Washitaw fondly invites:
Still changing, each season new regions display,
No boundaries check it, no streams can allay,
No land is too distant, no climate too hot,
No forest too heavy, no stream too remote;
They move, they inhabit, they cultivate all,
And were oceans no check, would encompass the ball:
Even now they approach my extensive domain,
And Missouri already is peopled with men.

Thus the monarch discours'd, and with sorrow oppress'd,
Full many a sigh shook his glittering breast;
He thought on the woes he had brought on mankind,
In countries remote, and in ages behind;
How fatal his friendships, and yet that his hates
Had overturned empires, and founded new states.
Of Ophir he pondered, and passed in review,
His Mexican robbers, and foes in Peru;
And he sighed for his friendships so fatally dear,
And brave Montezuma recalled with a tear:
And he feared that this great, this all-conquering press,
This progress of empire, stir, business, distress,
Would not only acquire an unlimited bound,
But discover his very retreats in the ground;
That his subjects and kin would be eagerly sought,
And wofully handled, and dreadfully taught;
That they all should be dragged out with bucket and chain,
And hammered, and pounded, and melted with pain.
He knew in such tortures men take a delight,
And he dreaded a miner, and hated the light.
But while thus he debated with reason and fear,
A sudden commotion resounds in his ear;
There were horses and men in tumultuous throng,
Came tramping, and talking, and rattling along;
The farmer was ploughing in sensible view,
The woodman he chopp'd, and the blacksmith he blew;

There were lawyers and merchants, all nations and brogues,
Scotch, English, and French, Irish, Yankees, and rogues;
And a school it was building, a master was found,
And was drawing out plans and surveying the ground.
Such a tumult and toil left no reason to doubt,
That his fears were all true, and a town was laid out:
But how great was his tremor, vexation, and hate,
When " a state" was re-echoed, " Missouri, a state."

In so sad a dilemma, dejected and grave,
The monarch withdrew to his closet, a cave;
Bethinking all peaceful to take into view
The course it were proper a king should pursue.
He pondered, and plotted, in fear, and in haste,
Now gnawed on his quill, and now writ, now erased;
Alternately flagging in fear and in doubt,
Or bent on campaigning with courage devout;
Now bending his thoughts upon leaving the land,
And now on the fame of a resolute stand:
At length, now concluding his foes to harass,
He resolved to assemble his subjects *en masse:*
And appointed a time, and provided a place,
Where they all might assemble, talk, plan, and embrace.
For, quoth he, to prevent being dragged out to light,
We more can accomplish by planning, than fight;
And however the mortals on earth may deny it,
There is more to be got without fighting, than by it;
For though they gain treaties, they lose it in bones,
And such points are not valued by fossils and stones.

The monarch of metals, whose absolute sway,
Not minerals only, but mortals obey;
Wherever he journies, whatever betide,
Has always companions and slaves at his side;
And hide as he may hide, and go where he will,
Has *mica-slate*, *granite*, and *quartz* with him still.
Hence the king had no sooner resolved on a plan,
Than he bid them proclaim it throughout his domain:
" Tell the Metals I summon them all to this shore,
Or in person to come, or by delegate ore:
To the uttermost mines of my kingdom go haste,
Search dell, traverse mountain, explore every waste,
Let no cave be unentered, no rock unexplored,
Where metal could harbour, or oxide could hoard;
Every bank, every hill, every stone, every shore,
Search by fire and by acid, hunt over and o'er!
That all kin of my ancient and glorious line
May hear of my summons, and know my design:
Go tell them, I hail their approach with a kiss,
I study their safety, I pant for their bliss;
And I would not intrude on their solid repose,
Were it not that my enemies drive me to blows.
But be cautious, friend Granite, lest thou shouldst be seen
In thy tour by our foes, mineralogical men;
Fly the face of the earth, keep the underground wave,
By stratum, or cavity, crevice, or cave;

So our scheme shall be secret, and no body scan,
Our flinty designs on our enemy—man."

The courier mounted on mettlesome steed,
Departed full gaily, a trooper of speed;
Nor paused he for pleasure, nor stopped he for bait,
He spurred on through *limestone*, and sweated through *slate;*
He travelled through *gneiss*, where metals were in't;
He galloped through *green-stone*, and worried through *flint;*
He cantered through *gravel*, where *porphyry* lay,
And floundered through *gypsum*, and trotted through *clay;*
Nor could *sienite* stop his unparalleled course,
Though *adamant* injured the heels of his horse;
But whene'er his steed lingered, (a hint for hussars,)
He urged him to canter by pelting with spars;
For he gave him no rest for refreshment or bait,
Till he'd traversed the empire, and summoned the state:
Then for all his unkindness he promptly atones,
By feeding his horse with some beautiful stones.
A cave on the Arkansaw, spacious and dread,
The monarch had chose for the regal parade;
Where, guarded by minions, he patiently waits
The gathering council, and coming debates.

The first who attended was blue-visaged Lead,
Who had quitted Potosi in haste, as he said;
For his friends they were many, and occupied ground
For seventy leagues in the country around;
And the moment he heard of his majesty's will,
He set off with speed over dingle and hill;
And so great was his haste, and the journey so far,
Carried only one friend, it was ponderous *spar*.
Then raising his voice, though with sorrow opprest,
Thus vented the feelings that burned in his breast:
" My friends in Missouri, my kin and compeers,
All smarting with pains, and all bathed in their tears;
After many long years of oppression and grief,
At length are encouraged to try for relief:
And assembled in council from seventy mines,
I bear their commission, and speak their designs.
It is more than a century, since we were first
Discovered by mortals, discovered and cursed;
Since erst we were hunted in rock and in clay,
And exiled to the terrible regions of day:
O that era, no time and no sorrows can blot,
When hunted by Reno, and found by La Motte:
O then what a series of griefs was begun,
What minerals plundered, what metals undone!
We were picked, and were hammered, bruised, injured, and broke,
And jostled in buckets, and smothered in smoke;
We were carried, like culprits, along in a cart,
And plunged in a furnace, and tortured with art:
So heedlessly handled, so rough, so severe,
Our injuries multiplied, year after year,
Till our woes and our insults all measure excel,
And we feel all the torments of roasting in hell.

And what is distressing beyond all our woes,
Our tears have turned gems in the chests of our foes;
Our blood and our groans have procured them delight,
And decked them with riches that dazzle the sight.
One only solace we have found for our woes,
'Tis the bullets we've sent to the hearts of our foes.
And yet all we feel in so high a degree,
O, king of the metals, is suffered for thee?
Go therefore on earth, men are panting for pelf,
Relieve our distress, and discover thyself."

He longer had spoken, but silver-faced Tin,
With air consequential, abruptly came in:
And, quoth he, "Out of pebbles and aggregate sand,
I am come from the depths to obey thy command;
But the place of my dwelling, my lonesome repose,
No name yet designates, no mortal yet knows;
'Tis a wilderness all; from the savage and deer,
No mischief I dread, and no sorrow I fear:
For they know not my usefulness, nature, or kind,
And they sweep o'er my home like a rattling wind.
This is all I may venture: a stranger to woe,
My heart is as light as a Chippewan doe;
And so sweetly I rest, so securely I lie,
That chemist and miner I both may defy."
Now Tin was a metal of Cornish descent,
Where the halcyon days of his boyhood were spent,
But his kin were so tortured, exhausted, distress'd,
He fled for relief to the woods of the west;
Where, although in retirement, remote, and unseen,
He often would boast of European kin;
Of friends he had left on the Gallic confines,
Or hid in the rocks of Bohemian mines;
Of German connexions, and boast that his name
Gave Devon her opulence, Cornwall her fame:
He would even advert to more elderly kin,
For Asia too, is a country of Tin:
But the thought of Siam, or of Banka ne'er rose,
Unmixed with a curse for his Belgian foes.
And while thus he descanted of ancestry free,
(Like brainless pretenders of mortal degree,)
Forgot that his friends were most bitterly poor,
Had endured many griefs, and had more to endure;
That their mines were expensive, exhausted, and old,
And worked at the price of the product when sold.
However, when thoughts so unpleasant oppress'd,
He brightened to think of his friends in the west:
How they all lay concealed from their enemies' sight,
Unburned by the miner, uncursed by the light;
And of all their rich ores in American ground,
In Chili alone had a morsel been found.

The next who addressed the imperial throne,
Now heaved a deep sigh, and now uttered a groan:
His rusty appearance, and sable attire,
Bespoke him afflicted by furnace and fire:

He seemed like some flinty, degenerate ore,
So dull was his visage, so earthy and poor;
And each bosom with manly compassion was shook,
When Iron thus pensive and feelingly spoke:
" If e'er sorrow wasted, or misery bent,
If pain e'er distracted, despair ever rent;
Or if injury wounded, or feeling oppress'd,
They now throb, they now rage, they now burn at my breast.
O my woes are unnumbered, and all of my race
Are plunged in despair, and o'erwhelmed in disgrace!
In vain we from country to country may roam,
No spot on the earth will afford us a home:
We are hunted on mountain, discovered in dale,
Nor will rock, nor will thicket, nor streamlet, avail:
In vain the earth hides us, in vain we may groan,
They find us in rocks, and extract us from stone:
All men are our foes, and unceasingly strive,
To catch us, and bruise us, and burn us alive;
And such is our number, and such are our fates,
We are found in all countries, oppressed in all states;
No rock but affords us, no soils but disclose,
Our place of concealment, our beds of repose;
And such is our rustic and simple disguise,
Every clown may detect, every zany descries.
Thus sought, and thus plighted, in misery high,
We hope not, we cannot—we droop, and we die;
For our very entrails they are gnawed and picked out,
And who lives without bowels is sturdy—no doubt."
Here, catching new spirit, he brightened his tone,
Paused, banished his sighs, and thus manly went on:
" Yet to all our distresses, for every woe,
No stop can we put, and no cure do we know;
For although, like my friend, the unfortunate Lead,
For your majesty thus we have suffered and bled;
Still my case is more cruel, my fate more severe,
And I still should be sought should you even appear.
For, though Gold is the object our enemies crave,
Iron too is of value, on land or on wave:
And though you in a gentleman's pocket may glow,
I only can furnish the farmer his plough."

If further of Iron, or its uses ye seek,
Bid Husbandry answer, let Chemistry speak;
No art but on this it is forced to depend,
For aid and assistance, a patron or friend;
Without it no trade could exist or progress,
And mechanics would fall on the tomb of distress.
Go call Navigation its use to support,
And Pharmacy summon, Astronomy court;
Metallurgy also, and Surgery call,
To join in the praise of this patron of all;
Let music and painting acknowledge its aids,
For sweetness of sounds, and for beauty of shades:
In fine, through all nature, all life, and all art,
See this favourite agent mix, enter, impart,

It fattens our soils, it impregnates our floods,
Tints the flowers of our gardens, the leaves of our woods,
We eat it in food, and we wear it in dress,
Our constant companion in health or distress.
It gives the rich hue to the gem of the mine,
And glows in the features of beauty divine:
The patron of arts, the philosopher's theme,
And favourite agent of wisdom supreme.

He scarcely had ceased, when with visage of ink,
A stranger approaching announced himself Znc.
He was coldly received, till Galena, his friend,
Addressing the monarch, assured him 'twas Blende;
And he would not have ventured on taking the floor,
Unacquainted with Blende, or his use as an ore;
And the reason he had not metallic attire,
He ne'er had been tortured by furnace or fire.
Thus kindly excusing, without any fuss,
All ended, when Blende, with some modesty, thus:
" My home is Missouri, on Merrimack's shore
My relatives slumber, a numerous ore:
Mine Reno can witness, Potosi declare,
The wealth I possess, and the fame that I share:
But does any one hear me who doubting opines?
My proofs are at hand, I appeal to the mines;
But I still am a stranger to pain or distress,
My sorrows are little, my injuries less:
No pick-axe or hammer has battered my bones,
And I peacefully rest with my neighbouring stones:
For as few or my uses or properties scan,
I lie untormented by meddling man;
And whatever this august assembly decree,
But little affects or my kindred or me."

Now rosy-faced Copper, a metal of fame,
The wrongs of his country arose to proclaim.
His ancient descent we to periods trace,
Remote as the arts of the civilized race;
E'en the primitive ages his ores would amass,
And Tubal-Cain, he was a worker in brass.
To ages less distant he furnished employ,
Renowned throughout Egypt, Assyria, Troy.
So nobly descended, no wonder we trace
Some lines of ambition and fire in his face:
He talks of his ancestry, famous and high,
And proudly on new metals glances his eye,
As if crude, or of some alchemistic degree,
And doubting their honours, if smelted *per se*.

Such then were his claims, who succeeding address'd
The king of the metals, enthroned in the west:
" I rise with emotion my woes to reveal,
And boldly to speak what so strongly I feel;
Unprepared as I am, and all troubled within,
I hope I may still be of use to my kin:
And I trust—" (here he used some pathetic expression,
Exordium-like, or a kind of digression,

A rapture of feeling, a burst of the heart,
Peradventure a stroke of the congressman's art,
Which the muse who reported, and not being near,
Now fails to remember, as then to o'erhear.)
" But if any indulgence can justly accrue,
For services rendered or uses in view;
If aught can arise from chivalric degree,
It must now, potent monarch, be due unto me!
Supreme is my power, supreme my design,
I glow in the palace as well as the mine;
I serve in all places to show or excell,
I shine on the steeple, and ring in the bell,
I frown in the statue, in bronze, or in brass,
And thunder in cannon, and glitter in glass!
The seaman adores me, his needle and ship,
I both must encompass, adorn, and equip;
And the navy without me, our strength on the deep,
No foe could encounter, no glory could reap!
The painter without me would die of the spleen,
Deprived of his favourite beautiful green:
And wrought into wares an incongruous pile,
I cause merchants to flourish, and ladies to smile;
Whence a quadruple charm we in Copper can see,
Making wealth, beauty, valour, and fashion agree.
But I groan with distresses, I ache with despair,
And my kindred they die with the weight of their care.
Yet it is not from furnace or fire that they flow,
The miner's oak bucket, or ore-dresser's blow:
Ah, no! these create nor distress nor alarm,
For our virgin appearance secures us from harm.
Our home is a region all distant and drear,
Where the tempest is howling one half of the year;
Where the rock towers high, and the waters divide,
And Superior lashes the shore at our side.
Here, lone and neglected, my family groans,
Confined by the pressure of ponderous stones,
That are squeezing their bowels, and crushing their bones.
And so massy they are, and so heavy they lie,
That we grieve, and we tremble, we pant, and we die.
O, king of the metals, now hear our request!
Remove, we beseech you, the rocks from our breast;
Allow us the sun, and the air, and the light,
However exposed to our enemies sight;
For already oppressed with so weighty a curse,
A change may be better, but cannot be worse."
Who slowly now entered the parliament cave,
Looked sooty, and dark, unmetallic, and grave:
He bowed, but no one would his interest promote,
For Manganese n'er was a metal of note.
Though known to antiquity, hard was his case,
Called *oxyd*, and *metalloid*, *brittle*, and *base;*
And, although in the arts he was useful indeed,
Yet suffered for ages to languish and bleed—
Unclassed as a metal, unhonoured in books:
Till chemists began to examine his looks;

For though found as an oxyde, an earth-coloured ore,
They were pleased with his weight, and the texture he bore,
They studied his nature by acid and heat,
Then proved him a metal beyond a deceit;
Showed what were his uses, and dwelt on his part,
In the potter's and bleacher's and glassmaker's art.
Thus rescued from darkness they brightened his name,
And established for ever his title to fame.
When the monarch first summoned his metalline corps,
And convoked to the cave all his subjugate ores.
Black Manganese slumbered all peaceful in clay,
On Merimack, hid from mankind and the day,
Whence rising he sought the congressional cave,
And entered all sooty, unpolished, and grave.
He bowed all respectful, then silently sat,
Now biting his fingers, now twirling his hat,
But spoke not, he wished, but had nothing to say,
And sat down to hear others debate, and obey.
A murmur without now announced the approach,
All hot, of a member who came in a coach,
And all eyes were directed to see and to know
What prince had arrived with such tumult and show:
But they shrunk with amazement, when bending in weeds,
A weeping, pale form, to the council proceeds.
So solemn, it seemed like a prodigal, rent
For estates he had squandered, or money mis-spent;
And many bethought some untoward design,
(Some mortal of Pluto in search, or a mine.)
Had news of their meeting, and came in disguise,
To seek and secure the auriferous prize:
That they all should be crowded with papers and dust,
In a miser's damp closet to slumber and rust:
Or proffer'd, as prospects should brighten or fail,
To keep rogues from the gallows, or thieves from the jail;
No eye but what sparkled, no heart but what beat,
And some thought of battle, and some of retreat;
Yet no murmur escaped, e'en the monarch of mines,
Nor thought of migrations, nor spoke of designs:
A silence ensued like the sleep of the dead,
So great was their panic, confusion, and dread.
But while thus they reflected in reverie high,
The stranger his veil threw all pensively by;
And they saw with delight a device on his breast,
Where silver commissioned the mystical guest:
'Twas the Genius of Paper, of bank-paper trash,
A substitute sent, both for honour and cash.
" You will pardon, (the genius desponding and weak,)
You will pardon my sorrows, I cannot yet speak:
I am weeping for woes which I cannot endure,
For evils I caused, but I never can cure.
I am pining for all that a nation can claim,
For honour, for character, credit, and fame:
And thus plunged in despair, and all buried in tears,
I have sighed for long months, I have wept for long years;
But all fruitless, my malady daily grows worse,
And the heavier my sorrows, the lighter my purse.

I first was suspected, it fretted me sad,
This grew to refusal, conviction, and bad;
And I daily sink deeper and deeper in woe,
And my friends are all broke, and to ruin we go.
I once was supported by silver—ah, me!
How fatal the friendship, we could not agree?
For as I grew in credit, he flew to retreats,
And slumbered in vaults, while I flaunted in streets;
And as I daily rose, so he daily declin'd,
Till a dollar in metal we scarcely could find.
So great my renown, it sunk deep on his heart,
And for once he determined the land to depart:
So he crept off in parcels, a dollar has legs,
And they waddled away both in boxes and kegs,
Till our banks they were empty, my kindred alone,
Now rule in oak drawers, and coffers of stone;
While he to those countries has taken a cruize,
Where paper's applied to a different use.
When therefore your majesty, vexed and in heat,
Bid all your dependents in Congress to meet,
There was only one dollar in silver, lone guest,
In all the dark vaults of the wide-spreading west;
Even that being funded, could not travel out,
Though he sighed and implored, the Cashier was a lout!
So he begged I would"—(here in a clamorous roar,
Echoed, "counterfeit—paper-rag—swindler, no more;")
And the king all enraged seized the genius with might,
And hurled him amain to the regions of night.

From so sad an affright, such tumultuous heats,
The members had scarcely arrived at their seats,
When a delegate reining a satin-white steed,
Alighting, announced himself Silver indeed,
He was plainly attired, and without any fuss,
Accosted the monarch full wittily thus:—
"My favours to win, and to find my retreat,
While mortals toil, jockey, drudge, murder, and cheat,
While merchants are broken, and lawyers are bent,
To gain my acquaintance—at twenty per cent.
For me, while the miser at midnight may groan,
And the creditor's turning his heart into stone,
While dullness through me, is for talents caress'd,
And merit without me, is merit unbless'd;
While for me, female beauty is worshipped by man,
And friendships are proffered, and hatreds began,
For me, while inventions and fashions are made,
And honour is sullied, and virtue betrayed;
Sure in such an assembly of metal as this,
I may safely all fears of detection dismiss;
And regardless of danger, unmindful of woes,
Describe the retreats where my kindred repose:
On Tennessee's borders they slumber in lime;
On Arkansaw known from the earliest time;
On Red River strewed by Almighty fiat,
And dispersed on the shores of the pleasant La Platte.
The Sabine, the Trinity, Teché, and Del Norde,
Glide smooth along banks which my treasures afford;
And my blood many a vein, nook, and cavity fills,
In Mexico's mountains, and quartz-covered hills.

For these I determine, for these I appear,
Their safety my trust, and their danger my fear:
But I plead not for parleys, men cannot grow worse,
And I fear less their tortures than they do my curse."
Now members arrived in a body so dense,
A throng so tumultuous, motley, immense,
And so rapid they spoke, with such fury of word,
That the muse was unable to hear or record;
And so ill could she list to an orator's rave,
She determined to quit the congressional cave;
Yet before her departure recognised a few,
Whose forms were familiar, whose visage she knew.
There was Bismuth from Kanzas, and Scheele from the Plein;
And Nickel from Yazoo; and Prarie Du Chein;
Platina from Mora; from Erie Uran;
From Yellowstone Arsenic; Chrome, from Itan;
With Cobalt, and Mercury, high from the Stony;
Columbian, Cerium, gray Antimony,
All jumbled together in contact so hot,
'Twere hard to decide or who spoke or who not!
They bawled, and they ranted, they begged, and they press'd,
Now flush'd with delight, now with sorrow depress'd,
And such heats were begat among metals and stones,
That the cave filled with sulphur, and bellowed with groans;
And the earth, as if grasped by omnipotent might,
Quaked dreadful, and shook with the throes of affright;
Deep northwardly rolled the electrical jar,
Creating amazement, destruction, and war;
The rivers they boiled like a pot over coals,
And mortals fell prostrate and prayed for their souls:
Every rock on our borders cracked, quivered, and shrunk,
And Nackitosh tumbled, and New Madrid sunk.

Now the Monarch of Metals perceiving it vain,
Or the heats to allay, or the peace to regain,
Exerted a power to royalty dear,
And prorogued the convention to meet in a year;
But afterwards learning how mortals distress'd
Were shook with affright, and were leaving the west;
Exulted: he saw from an accident flow,
What planning and fighting might never bestow;
That the progress of empire was partly allayed;
That emigrants flagged, and plantations decayed;
And they now might repose without thinking with woe,
On the crucible, hammer, pick, bucket, and hoe;
That a spirit was dampened, which driving amain,
Forboded such grief to his golden domain;
And he fancied the dread would a season arrest,
The fame, population, and growth of the west.
When, therefore, the monarch maturely surveyed
The woeful effects which a quarrel had made,
All stately he rose, and proclaimed the behest,
Dissolving the sittings, and all was at rest.

So great was the tumult, confusion, and groans,
Such horrors arose from the clashing of stones.

VOYAGE

FROM

FRANCE TO COCHIN-CHINA,

IN THE

SHIP HENRY,

CAPTAIN REY, OF BORDEAUX,

IN THE YEARS 1819 AND 1820.

LONDON:

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1821.

VOYAGE

FROM

FRANCE TO COCHIN-CHINA,

&c. &c.

When in Cochin-China, on a preceding voyage, I was commissioned, on the part of the sovereign, to convey to him from France various articles, in particular fire-arms, for his military service. The whole being provided and embarked at Bordeaux, in the ship Henry, we sailed from the Garonne on the 3d February, 1819, to return to Cochin-China.

The voyage as far as the strait of Sunda, between Sumatra and Java, produced no occurrence worthy of notice, excepting our putting into Port Praga, in St. Jago, one of the Cape Verd islands, where we arrived on the 26th February. On our former voyage we had carried into that port a small vessel belonging to the islands, which we found deserted at sea; we were now therefore received by the commandant, Don Juan De Lancaste, as old friends, and treated by him and by the governor-general with every mark of kindness. In Port Praga we laid in a stock of poultry, pigs, kids, and vegetables of various sorts; all furnished in great abundance, and at a very low price, when compared with their value in France. On the 2d June, the hundred and ninth day of our voyage, we came to anchor abreast of the Dutch fort of Angier, on the coast of Java, in the strait of Sunda, where we were liberally supplied by the natives with necessaries of all kinds. In return, the surgeon of the Henry furnished advice and medicines to the commandant, who stood in need of several articles of the *materia medica*, not to be found at his station. Getting again under way on the 5th, we on the 7th passed near the two pretty little islands called the Two Sisters. The wind coming contrary, we had abundance of opportunities to sound, as we approached Chabendeao, a dangerous shoal on the west of those islands. The least depth we found at the distance of three one-third miles, (geographical or nautical) in that direction was four fathoms English, (four and half *brasses* French). No appearance on the water indicated that we were on a bank: but the weather and the sea were then indeed very calm. The south-east winds having just set in, we had more difficulty than on the former voyage to make Clement strait. For two nights together we had dreadful thunder-storms, rolling and bursting over our heads. Several times I observed the lightning in ascent, not far from the vessel: but these discharges had no echo, resembling the single report of a cannon; while the descending lightning was always followed by continued tremendous reverberation. During the thunder the rain poured down in torrents; the current set so strong to the south-west and the winds were so variable, that we had no choice left but to come to anchor until the storm abated. On the 9th, at seven A. M. we passed within pistol-shot of the Fairlie rock: the sea breaking over it in such a way, that it might be seen at the distance of three miles. When we were the nearest to it, on the north-east quarter, the soundings were six one-sixth fathoms English, (seven *brasses* French). We could distinctly observe the extent of the rock; and its position agreed with that laid down by Horsburgh. From thence the depth gradually increased, until we came abreast of Shoal-water islands. At ten A. M. ran through Clement strait. Near Gaspar spoke with a French ship from China, for Europe, and learned that the Bordelais, out two years from France, had passed the strait of Carimate, on her way home, to complete her circumnavigation of the globe. On the 17th ran along close on the east of the islands Pulo Condor; and on the 19th, in the morning, came within sight of the coast of Cochin-China, bearing from west-north-west to north-east: a-head we saw the point of Kega. We had steered so as to pass ten miles to the eastward of the north-east extremity of the bank of Matthew-Brito: but we observed no circumstance to indicate its position or distance.

My business in this voyage being with the government of the country alone, we steered directly for Tourane; keeping close by the land, which I found to be correctly laid down in the chart of M. Dayot: but he goes no farther than Pulo Canton. The bay of Tourane is given in Lord Macartney's Voyage to China in 1792: but my stay in the country enabled me to make a draught still more correct; and I added the line of coast from the river of Fay-Fo, on to Tiger-island: I also laid down the river of Hué.* Coming to anchor on the 24th of June in the bay of Tourane, our salute of the fort was returned; and soon afterwards the Fantou, or mandarin-of-war came on-board the Henry. Recollecting us all, he called us by our names, and informed us that the Emperor, impatient to hear of our arrival, had dispatched messengers to different parts of the coast, to enquire whether we had been seen. After a short visit he went on shore, to give notice to the Emperor of our safe arrival: he also took charge of my letters for the French mandarins at court. I was naturally anxious to know the posture of affairs there before I should proceed to the capital: but five days passed away before my letters were answered. The interval we employed in visiting various points of the magnificent bay in which we lay, and in renewing our acquaintance with many of the inhabitants; by which we were more and more confirmed in the opinion we had formed of the affable and hospitable dispositions of the people. Several officers of the Henry passed days and nights, not in the villages on the coast only, but in detached houses in the country, without encountering the slightest offence or affront; they were on the contrary received and treated with the most friendly cordiality.

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* The names of many nations, countries, towns, &c. of the east have been, and still are, strangely corrupted or otherwise altered by Europeans. Thus the vast Asiatic empire which we call *China* is, in Asia, called *Catay*, a name formerly employed in the language of poetry in Europe. The peninsula on which Europeans land, on their commercial voyages to China, at the entrance of the river of Canton, we call *Macao*, but the Chinese *Gaumin*. The proper name of *Canton* itself ought to be *Quan-Doung*. The *Japan* islands are called *Ziendri*. The kingdom of *Siam* is *Menang-Tai*, that is to say, the free independent kingdom: the capital, which we call *Siam*, is *Si-hé-thi-ya*. The proper name of the *Maldive* islands, near the great southern promontory of India, is *Malereque*. *Persia*, since the extension of its dominions, is called *Iram; Syria*, now *Sham;* and the *Tartars* of the northern regions of Asia, as if a race of their atrocious reputation among their enemies must have proceeded from *Tartarus* itself, are still termed *Tartars*.

The name of *Tunkin* is not more correct, for the country is, by the inhabitants, called *Nuok-Anam*, i. e. the kingdom of *Anam*, Under this general denomination are comprehended not Tunkin only, but also Cochin-China, (originally a dismemberment of Tunkin), for distinction-sake termed *Dang-Trong*, the inner kingdom, while Tunkin Proper is called *Dang-Ngay*, the outer kingdom. The error has been produced by ascribing to the whole country the name of the capital once named *Dong-Kinh*. For in a great part of Asia the letter *d* being sounded as *t*, strangers have imitated the name in *Tunkin*. *Dong* signifies the east, and *Kinh* a community of men in civilized society. Since the extension of the empire of Tunkin, the ancient capital, being situated to the northward of the principal states, has been styled *Bac-Kinh*, the city of the north. *Cambogia*, or *Camboja*, is the proper name of that country in the east, as well as in Europe: but *Tsiampa* is by the people termed *Bink-Tuam*. The finest bay and harbour of all Cochin-China, called by Europeans *Tourane*, is by the inhabitants called *Han* or *Cua-Han*, the port of *Han*.

On the 29th June, letters from court informed me that I was at liberty to remain in the bay of Tourane, or to carry the ship into the river of Hué the capital; and that, in either case, every assistance would be afforded to unload her. Ambitious that the Henry should be the first European vessel to enter the port of the capital, we weighed from Tourane at noon, and next morning at 6 A. M. we dropped our anchor a mile north-east from the fort, at the entrance of the river Hué. There we found another French ship, the Rose, which had arrived a few days before, and had begun to discharge her cargo. Having saluted the fort, the Fantou or military commandant, and the Thoughou or mandarin of justice, visited us on-board, bringing a present of fresh fish and fruit. Our corresponding present was reserved for another occasion. The captain of the Rose came also on-board the Henry; and I could discover that he was not over satisfied with the progress of his affairs with the government: but he had a supercargo in the capital, who alone conducted all the business of the enterprise. My case was different; for I was sole master of my transactions; and being anxious to conduct myself so as not only to promote my own personal interest, but those also of my nation and countrymen in general, in future times, I resolved to commence no mercantile intercourse until I should consult the two French mandarins settled in the country, and in favour at court. From those gentlemen I learned that the difficulties arisen in the business of the Rose related to the value to be given by the government for the fire-arms she had brought out. Without presuming to decide on which side the blame lay, I would just recommend to all who go to Cochin-China to provide themselves with a most accurate and retentive memory, unless their transactions be conducted by pen and paper.

The two French gentlemen created mandarins by the emperor, Messrs. Vanier and Chaigneau, carried me in their galley up to Hué the capital, where, before my visit of ceremony to the mandarin of strangers, I communicated by letter the principles on which my business would be conducted. The minister's answer, professing the utmost fairness on the part of government, was perfectly satisfactory. In my audience of that minister, on the 4th July, I presented, according to custom, a few European articles, more of curiosity than of intrinsic value; observing distinctly at the time, that such a present was to be considered, not as a tribute of obligation, but as a token of amity on my part, and of anticipatory gratitude for the favours which we should receive. The observation was perfectly understood, and suitably and readily answered. I then informed the minister that, besides the articles commissioned by the government, I had on-board models of a variety of machines, which might be useful in the country, and which I wished to present to the emperor; and desired to know where they could be deposited.

At this time was in Hué, a Portuguese, the owner of a small vessel, which, through the ignorance of the master, had been obliged to put into Cochin-China, after he had been three months at sea, on his way from Manilla only to Siam. He applied to me for assistance, to enable him to return to Manilla, and informed me that, having disposed to government of a part of his cargo, the second mandarin of shipping, the interpreter, and other persons, threw difficulties in the way of his payment; in the hope of appropriating to themselves a portion of what was due to him. A Portuguese and a worthy man, at such a distance from Europe, was to me as a countryman: his case besides might soon be my own. On this business, representation was therefore made, at my request, by the French mandarins to the emperor. The Portuguese owner was paid; and four mandarins received the honours of the pillory and the bamboo. The minister of foreign affairs affected to thank me, for bringing forward conduct so nefarious; but my eye pierced deeper than his countenance. It has been observed by many travellers of understanding, that among the Chinese you gain much more by spirit and intimidation, than by pusillanimity and deference: the remark may be extended to the Cochin-Chinese.

On the 6th July, the mechanical models were conveyed to the guyado or arsenal, where they were examined by the hereditary prince, who directed the most expert artificers to be admitted, while they were putting in order, to learn their uses. Two days afterwards, the emperor himself repaired to the arsenal, and seemed much gratified when the several machines were explained to him. The hydraulic-press and ram, the model of a powder-mill, and the flatting-mill for copper, more particularly attracted his attention. On my former voyage, I had expatiated largely on the wonderful powers and uses of the steam-engine; but my stay in France, on my return, was too short to permit a small steam-boat for the emperor to be finished; and the disappointment was sensibly felt.

Having hired a warehouse, the goods brought out for general sale were there displayed: but they seemed to excite little curiosity among the people. Looking-glasses, and other glass-works, engravings, and arms, seemed to be the chief objects of attraction. Out of ostentation, a few trifles were purchased by the mandarins: but the fact is, that the people are not yet arrived at that point of civilization and wealth, either to be able to purchase or even to relish many articles of industry and ingenuity, which in Europe are regarded as indispensable in comfortable life. The government will, however, always have occasion for a sufficient quantity of different articles, to relieve us from the necessity of paying in specie for such commodities as we may procure in the country.

By the help of the imperial barges, our ship discharged her whole cargo in one day, and permission was granted to carry her up the river to the capital; to the great joy of the emperor, who wished much to exhibit to his court an European ship. At the entrance of the river of Hué is a bar of sand, from nine to ten fathoms broad. At low water, the depth on it is only twelve and-a-quarter English feet; and the increase is only one and-a-half foot at spring-tides. The Henry drew twelve feet; taking the advantage, therefore, of very smooth water, we were soon towed over the bar into four and-a-half fathoms, the depth found also on the outside of the bar. Thus at noon, the French flag was first displayed before the ramparts of the capital of Cochin-China, where we lay as snugly as in a bason, within speech of a village, furnished with every necessary; a situation peculiarly fortunate, on account of the heavy gales from the north-west, which prevail at that time of the year, and are very dangerous on the outside of the bar.

The two officers commanding in the port were always ready to serve us; one of them would positively learn our language, and had made considerable progress during our stay in the river. Hearing we had on-board two apprentices, who had been drummers in the army, the emperor sent us from twenty to thirty of his drummers, to learn our practice.

The examination of the ten thousand stand of arms landed for the government, as there were few native artificers capable of doing it properly, allowed me abundance of time to survey the capital, which was a heap of ruins when I was formerly in the country. In the course of two years it had been completely renewed, and was now converted into a very regular fortress. The emperor having caused the best French works on the military art to be translated for his use, has introduced Vauban into Cochin-China; and has constructed, beyond controversy, the most regular fortress in the east, Fort William of Calcutta, and Fort George of Madras, although constructed by the British, are not equal to it, Hué, the name by which we denote the capital, is properly that of the province in which it is situated: the town is usually called Kigue, that is to say, the residence of the emperor, or the court. It is placed on an island, formed by canals or branches of the river. The plan of the fortification is quadrilateral, flanked by four bastions on each face, with four covert-ways and four gates. The ramparts are of stone in the foundations and the ditch; then of brick and earth for two toises above the surface of the ground. The ditch is in breadth thirty toises, and in depth three. Each face of the fortification is in length three miles, containing five hundred embrasures: the whole circuit mounting two thousand pieces of cannon: the arsenals within the works contain four thousand pieces, from four-pounders up to sixty-nine pounders French; all brass and capitally mounted. The pieces for the ramparts are twenty-four and thirty-six pounders. Nine sixty-nine pounders are intended for a cavalier fronting the palace, which itself forms a spacious internal fortress, inclosed with a wall and ditch. The barracks are adapted for thirty thousand men. Within the inclosure of the palace are various buildings for the use of the emperor; and round it, on the outside, are lodged the princes, the principal mandarins, and the foreign ministers. Then come the arsenals, store-houses for rice, the bazars, and the houses of the town. The streets are all straight, sanded and bordered with trees: their breadth sixty feet. The eight principal streets terminate at the sixteen opposite gates: the city is also traversed by four canals navigable for barges. Such was the project for the town: but much remained to be done when we left the country.

According to the best information to be obtained in the capital, the Cochin-Chinese carry back their history only about six hundred years. Prior to that period the country is supposed to have been occupied by a number of independent tribes, generally at war among themselves, but all tributary to Tunkin, which was itself tributary to the vast empire of China. When Tunkin revolted from China, the Cochin-Chinese asserted also their independence, under Nguyen, a prince whom they invested with absolute power.

After many revolutions and continued wars, internal and foreign, three brothers, Gn-ync, at the head of a body of freebooters, called the Taysons, (mountaineers from the southern province of Siampa) expelling the sovereign of the family of Nguyen, divided the country among them. In 1776, one of the brothers abdicated his throne, and the eldest chose the southern portion of Cochin-China, the northern falling to the youngest, who annexed the kingdom of Tunkin, after expelling an immense Chinese force sent thither to oppose him. But in 1779, hostilities breaking out between the brother usurpers, the present sovereign, Gia-Long, a lineal descendant of the ancient family of Nguyen, defeating his opponents in 1806, gained possession of the throne of Cochin-China, to which he has annexed Tunkin, together with Dung-Nay, the northern portion of the kingdom of Cambogia. Gia-Long is the father of the young prince, who, in 1788, repaired to France, under the care of the Bishop of Adran, a French missionary, long established in Cochin-China, to solicit aid for the restoration of his father to the throne. One unfortunate sovereign thus addressed himself to another at that moment on the eve of becoming the most unfortunate of men. The accumulating disasters of Lewis XVI. soon drove from the consideration of the French ministers those of Gia-Long.

The present government of Cochin-China is essentially absolute and despotic; in this respect second to none in the vast continent of Asia; a region in which the terms freedom and constitution have, from the very origin of history, been utterly unknown. The Mandarins possess the same power and authority as in China itself. They are styled in the country Cuang, which signifies lord or master, and the epithet Long is employed to denote a minister, or a noble of the first class. The term mandarin applied by us Europeans to the men of rank or office in Cochin-China, as well as in China itself, is Portuguese, and signifies a person of authority or command.

Gia-Long, a man not more remarkable for the vicissitudes of his fortunes than for his genius and moral qualities, has always been desirous to introduce reform and improvement into the administration of public affairs. Fearful, however, of alienating the minds of the great, by his concessions to the body of the people, he has been compelled to stop far short of his projected alterations. Educated in the school of adversity he possesses information on various subjects much beyond what usually falls to the lot of the princes of the east. He is, consequently, no stranger to the state of his people, and to their fitness for that system of government which he wishes to introduce. For this reason, in nominating his successor to the throne, he has selected, not his eldest son, but him whom he knew to possess the greatest ability and firmness, him whom he knew (to use his own expression) "to be able to wield the rod, and to apply it when requisite indiscriminately to all ranks of his subjects, great and small." "Whom he loveth he chasteneth," is a venerable saying: but in Cochin-China the sentiment is reversed. Here the subject seems to say to his ruler, "if thou wouldest have me respect thee, love thee, then chastise me." To love and to fear are synonymous terms in the mouth of a Cochin-Chinese, who says indifferently, "I fear you," or "I respect you."

The code of civil laws, borrowed from the great empire (the common appellation of China) established in Cochin-China, is beyond measure prolix. The interpretation of the laws is so difficult, that, until a change be adopted in the mode of writing them, they never can be understood, excepting by a very small number of the learned. Hence are law-suits endless: hence, when a question of any importance is to be determined, the decision of the ordinary judge is submitted to the imperial council, by them to be confirmed or reversed. It commonly happens, however, that the council requires farther information on the affair. By this mode of proceeding the claimant sees no end of his trouble and expense; unless the governor-in-chief of the province, or the emperor himself inquire into the business in the first instance.

The administration of criminal law is much better arranged and conducted. In every village are judges who decide in the first instance; and from them the cause, with all the documents relating to it, is laid before the grand council, where the whole case is re-examined. For any defect in the forms of justice the first judge is fined; and the emperor himself is required to examine, at three separate periods, the sentence pronounced by the council. That sentence he may modify, but only in favour of the condemned; in no way can he aggravate the sentence; and the three separate revisals afford him time to arrive at a proper judgment on the whole circumstances of the case before him. This regulation was introduced by Gia-Long himself, during the civil war, that he might guard against injustice or prejudice in determining in cases relative to subjects who were or had very lately been his political enemies: a regulation still unknown in the jurisprudence of the most enlightened Christian nations of Europe. He is in the habit also of pardoning criminals, on thrice repeated applications for favour, from persons of known judgment and probity. "For," said he, on more than one occasion, to the Bishop of Adran, whom he always styled his illustrious master; "such is your friendship for me, that you will never suffer me to authorise judgments of excessive severity. It will, besides, be a manifest proof that I am in error, if you shall thrice return to solicit pardon for an offender."

The present viceroy of Tunkin was formerly at the head of the army of the enemies of Gia-Long. Passing over to the emperor's camp, he requested to be either punished as a rebel, or suffered to serve as a soldier in his army. He was entrusted with an important command. In April 1803 he was the first to mount to the assault of Kigue, the capital of the Taysons, then defended by the usurper. Him he made prisoner, but suffered him afterwards to escape, warning him in future to keep out of his way. Repairing immediately to Gia-Long, "Sire," said he, "for ten years together did I eat the bread of that person, before I entered into your service: was it possible for me to put him to death?"—"In your place," replied the emperor, "I would have done the same thing."

The military force of Cochin-China comprises at present 160,000 men; but in time of war the number may be doubled. In this account are included 30,000 men employed in the navy. The whole land-troops are on foot; not from the scarcity of horses, but because the country being either intersected with canals, or roughened with hills, cavalry could be of very little service. The greater part of the army are armed and disciplined in the European manner. But Gia-Long deserves to be imitated by many an other sovereign, in another quarter of the world. Gia-Long maintains no idle soldiers. In the time of peace his troops are constantly employed as artificers and work-men of every description, and in all other kinds of labour. By this system roads and canals have been opened or repaired; towns and villages have been rebuilt or restored; and many other works have been executed, which had become necessary, in consequence of the late desolating civil war.

The Cochin-Chinese conceive themselves, and I think with good reason, to be superior to their neighbours of the great empire, in various respects. One advantage of the first importance the Cochin-Chinese certainly possess: they are not restrained from improving in any art or trade, in which imagination or invention may be requisite to bring it to perfection. Hence they eagerly adopt improvements and instructions from other nations. Hence, in naval affairs, their progress is truly great. Many of the emperor's ships are constructed on the French model. Roman characters in writing are used by almost every Christian in the country, and by even many of the Pagans. Their deficiency in science is owing to the want of teachers, and not to a defect of capacity or of desire to learn.

On the 22d July, the emperor announced his intention to proceed to Koua-Han, (the port) to sacrifice to his deities for the safe arrival of the fleet from Tunkin, bringing the annual tribute; and next morning at ten o'clock, the drums, tam-tams, gongs, &c. proclaimed his departure. For some time past the emperor had occupied a floating palace, that in the city being under repair. The structure consisted of two stories, erected on a flat-bottomed vessel of very large dimensions, and containing accommodation for the whole imperial family, and attendants, in all about three hundred persons. At noon the procession appeared; first came twenty gallies in two rows, each of sixty oars, with flag and uniform of the rowers blue; then other twenty of the same sort, with flag and uniform yellow. Four gallies of one hundred and twenty oars, flag and uniform red, with a canopy, under which sat the princes. Next came twelve gallies richly gilded, carrying the imperial guards, followed by ten others, towing the floating palace, dressed out with flags; and the procession was closed by an escort of ten armed gallies. Multitudes of vessels followed, belonging to the mandarins, and a body of two thousand troops kept pace with the gallies down the river-side. When the emperor had passed we fired our salute, and soon afterwards an officer came on-board to apologize for its not being returned. The emperor remained to the third day down the river, on account of the rain, and was at last obliged to return to the capital, without being able to offer the sacrifice.

Some years ago, when a fleet was preparing for Tunkin, the emperor ordered the customary conjurations prescribed by his religion to be performed, to discover the favoured time for putting to sea; this he did in compliance with the vulgar superstition. The doctors, who were to consult the will of their deities, gave an answer contrary to the emperor's wish, but the convoy left the port, and two days afterwards a tempest destroyed 150 vessels out of the 180 of which the convoy consisted. The bamboo was liberally applied to every one of the prognosticators, with a declaration, that not a head should be left in its place among the whole fraternity, unless they found heaven always to favour the day which he should appoint for the sailing of all future expeditions.

Gia-Long is now fifty-nine years old, but the severe fatigue and misfortunes he underwent, before he came to the throne, have greatly enfeebled his constitution. Still he gives every day public audience, and instructs his apparent successor in the art of government. The young prince is about thirty years old; he is well educated, and has the rank of first man of letters in the empire. With geometry, astronomy, and geography, he is well acquainted. He occasionally employs the Roman character in writing, but he refuses to know any language but his own. Many European works of utility have been translated for his use; and from one of the French mandarins, he has learned to ascertain the longitude of a place by the lunar observation. The emperor has also employed a native mandarin, who studied under the missionaries in

China, to compute astronomical tables, said to be extremely accurate.

The month of September, when the alteration of the monsoon takes place, was now at hand; after which it is very difficult for shipping to go down the river Hué. Every preparation was therefore made for our departure, the day before which, the 25th of August, the festival of our good king Louis XVIII. was celebrated by an entertainment on-board the Henry, at which were present not only all our countrymen in the capital, but also the mandarins of our acquaintance, and (which was still more remarkable) their ladies. One of the toasts drank by all the guests was *moun, moun thoé boua-Falanca, boua-Anam;* that is to say, "a long reign to the kings of France and Anam."

The country of Cochin-China, just emerging from the disorders and devastations of civil dissention and warfare, possessed but little ground in cultivation; for exportation, therefore, it furnished little else than rice, tobacco, and areca; the Chinese carried off also cargoes of sugar, when areca was not to be procured. The soil of the country is naturally very fertile, and, with little labour, produces plentifully whatever is required. It affords likewise the commodities of the Philippine islands and of Bengal. Chinese goods may also be obtained in Cochin-China cheaper than at Canton itself; being carried thither by Chinese junks, which are not subject to the same heavy duties with foreign vessels.

The Cochin-Chinese are naturally mild, affable, polite, and intelligent. The lower classes are superior to those of China, and even to those of Europe, in respect of morals and goodness of disposition. Polygamy is general in the country; but one wife alone is always mistress of the house, and the others are her servants; nor do the children of these last inherit the property of the father, who provides for them in his life-time. Divorce is also practised by mutual consent, and the children are divided between the parents. Polygamy and divorce are the chief obstacles which the missionaries have to surmount, in the propagation of the Christian religion in the country. Conjugal infidelity is punished with the death of both the offenders.

The ladies of the middling and higher classes of Cochin-China are very reserved, and sometimes handsome, particularly in the northern provinces, where, the climate being the most temperate, their complexion is fairer than in the southern parts. They are all, however, (unfortunately as we Europeans think) addicted to the use of betel and areca, mixed with the lime of shells, which reddens the mouth as if it bled. The dress of the men is composed of long and wide pantaloons, fastened by a girdle, with under and upper waistcoats; the latter of silk or linen of different colours. When dressed for ceremony to go before a grandee or mandarin, they wear one or two gowns falling to the ground, with a piece of black crape round the head like a turban, to cover the hair; but the ears are uncovered. The dress of the women consists of long wide silk pantaloons, like those of the men, covered by a succession of loose gowns down to the ground; the sleeves of great length and width. Both sexes carry bags of satin or other stuffs, in which they place their betel and areca when they go abroad: but in the presence of a superior the bag or purse must not be exhibited, nor must the head be covered. The turban is never worn out of doors, unless it be white, which indicates mourning: but in this part of dress no one ever appears before a mandarin. How unfavourable to elegance of shape must be the habiliments of the Cochin-Chinese ladies may easily be imagined. In one particular, however, they act much more wisely than their neighbour dames of China: their feet are never put to the torture in their shoes. Ladies of rank indeed wear only loose slippers, and that without stockings. In paying visits, they are carried in palanquins, which completely conceal them. The women of low rank keep off the sun by broad-brimmed hats, ingeniously worked with straw. Some females are employed in merchandize, and display in their business ability superior to the men: but it is a mistake to say, as some writers have said, that they are also employed in labouring the ground. They are generally treated with respect and tenderness by their husbands: so much so that in many cases, to use the vulgar phrase, "the grey mare is the better horse."

On the 28th of August, the weather being favourable, by the friendly aid of the commanders by sea and land, we passed down the river, and were just able to clear the bar; coming to anchor in seven fathoms water, ground fine sand, a mile north-east from the fort at the entrance. Returning to the capital to terminate my business, a disagreeable adventure occurred, which may perhaps furnish a lesson to other persons in a similar situation. A confidential attendant of the emperor's second son came to our warehouse on shore, saying he wanted several articles for his master, which were given to him. At the end of a fortnight he brought them back all broken and useless, with a message, that the prince would not have one of them. The manager in the warehouse represented that every thing, glasses, watches, fowling-pieces, &c. had been delivered in perfect condition, and that of course his highness would certainly pay for what was destroyed. The other answered, that as the articles were not wanted, they would positively not be paid for: employing at the same time very offensive language to our nation. The cause of all this conduct I concluded to be the prince's anger, because I refused to give him an European dog, which I had carried out for another person. Seeing no end of this man's insolence and threats, I caused him to be arrested by the soldiers placed in my service; and throwing into the river every thing he had brought back, desired a messenger of the heir of the throne, who happened to be present, to inform that prince of the business; stating, that unless the man was immediately punished, and my goods were paid for, the whole should be laid before the emperor. In a very short time I was desired to go to the mandarin of strangers, who endeavoured to apologise for what had happened: but at last seeing me resolute, the attendant was punished, the goods were paid for; and all matters were amicably adjusted.

On the 4th of September, having embarked whatever was wanted in the capital, I went on-board with two other French captains, returning to their ships lying in Tourane bay. Getting under way at eleven A. M. we anchored in the bay at the same hour next day. There learning that the governor of the province of Quan-Nam desired to see me at his residence in Chou-Couy, two leagues from the city of Fay-Fo, where I had business, I set out on my journey, escorted by six soldiers, with a set of carriers for my palanquin. Mr. Treillard, the surgeon of the Henry, went also, but he preferred a passage up the canals. The distance we had to go, from the village Ton-Han to Fay-Fo, was reckoned a day's journey, about nine road-leagues or hours' travelling. The road was excellent; but the bridges constructed with bamboos were very insecure. No carriages, however, being used in the country, they answer well enough for men and horses. The elephants always ford or swim across the rivers and canals; and goods are often transported on foot by women as well as men.

Proceeding to the residence of the governor, I found his house or palace inclosed with walls, like that of the emperor. Within were barracks, pagodas, and apartments for his numerous attendants. The innermost of all is the abode of the master, who, like Dionysius of Syracuse, is not to be seen until you have passed the examination of his people. He accepted my present of cut-glass, and promised to do every thing in his power to favour my countrymen who should come within his jurisdiction.

Fay-Fo is what is in India called a great bazaar. The city consists of one street of great length, the houses of brick, one story high, wholly adapted for traders, who have their shops and warehouses towards the street. The inhabitants are reckoned to amount to 60,000, of whom one-third part are Chinese. Several commercial canals communicate with the town, and the river is navigable like that of Hue. Large Chinese vessels, called sommes, of 600 tons burthen, arrive at Fay-Fo yearly. The river divides itself into three branches; one goes directly to the sea in front of Chamcollao, another to the bay of Tourane, and the third to the southern extremity of the province, opposite to Pulo-Canton: but the two last are navigable for small boats only.

Setting out on our return to Tourane, we arrived at one in the morning of a very dark night; but owing to the excellence of the police, we met with no interruption of any kind. The road is lined with houses almost the whole way; and at all times the stranger may apply for assistance or hospitality, and be received with a cordiality which does honour to the people.*

Returning once more to the capital, I visited some remarkable objects in the environs. The first was the hill on which the usurpers of the throne used to offer sacrifice; a hill which, although artificial, rises to the height of above 600 yards. In shape it resembles a truncated cone, and is situated south-south-east from the city. On his restoration, Gia-Long destroyed the pagoda and the altar erected on the summit; and once had thoughts of levelling the whole hill; but he soon discovered more useful employment for his people and his money. On the east of this spot is a regular oblong natural hill, a little higher, planted all over with firs, a tree as great a rarity, and as much prized in Cochin-China, as any of their curious vegetable productions would be in Europe. The place of sacrifice chosen by the present emperor is not far from the conical hill, but in the plain, and regularly planted with firs.

The most striking ceremony in Cochin-China is a funeral; and it is no uncommon thing for surviving relations almost to ruin themselves in celebrating the obsequies of a parent. Not only the higher classes, but the emperor himself, steps aside to make room for a funeral or a wedding-procession of whatever kind it may be. A curious feature of the economical policy of Gia-Long is this, that certain high dignities are not conferred until after the death of the persons to be honoured with them. Thus many families preserve with care the brevet of a general or an admiral, in the name of a deceased relative, who was only a subaltern officer. Distinction of rank and title is not hereditary in the country: these posthumous honours, therefore, entail no burthen on the nation; they are, consequently, in themselves the more honourable.

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* M. le Poivre, who visited Cochin-China fifty years ago, tells us that a traveller, who has not money sufficient to defray his expences in an inn, enters the first house of the town or village he arrives at; nobody inquires his business; he speaks to nobody, but waits in silence the hour of dinner. As soon as the rice is served up, he modestly approaches, places himself at table with the family, eats, drinks, and departs without uttering a single word, or any one's putting to him a single question. It was enough that he was a human being, a brother in distress; they wanted no farther information.

Respect for the dead is the same as in China, and the sentiment would do credit to the people, were it not combined with a multitude of superstitious and contemptible ceremonies. A belief in a good and an evil principle is the foundation of their religion: to the former are entrusted their ancestors; and to the latter are offered a regular course of sacrifices and prayers, that they may not disturb the repose of the deceased. But this superstition is wholly free of enthusiasm: neither sentiments, however, are found among the grandees and men of letters. The emperor has often reproved his courtiers addressing him as the son of heaven. "I am, my friends, but the son of a very humble subject of the king of heaven, of the master of the universe, who bestowed on me parents of this earth, as he did to all other men." The bonzes, or pagan priests, are but little favoured by the government; they are, consequently, neither numerous nor rich, but live very moderately in common like monks; there are also communities or convents of bonzeses. All professions of religion are tolerated in Cochin-China; the number of Christians, according to the titular Bishop of Verrenne, apostolic-vicar in the country, may be about 60,000.

All our business in the capital being finished, we set out on our return to the ship in Tourane Bay by land, on the 4th of November. M. Chaigneau, one of the French mandarins, having obtained leave of absence for three years, after a residence of six and twenty years, and many important services as a commander by both sea and land, took his passage to Europe in our ship. Our company, including the soldiers of our escort, and the bearers of our palanquins amount to about 200 persons. We proceed on the new canal, which opens into the great lake; our project being to take the diversion of hunting on the way. Early next morning we landed at the village Koua-

Hay, where we mounted our palanquins, as the road led across several marshes. But the country appearing very agreeable, we followed our hunting expedition round the hills, which abound in game of all sorts. In the vicinity of certain villages, and at the end of every five or six miles, are established along the great roads post-houses, in which travellers of distinction may lodge, under the inspection of an imperial officer, who has also the command of all the unemployed military of his district. At night we lodged at the foot of the great pass over the hills. All along the foot of the hills is a vast lagoon, separated from the sea by a natural bank of sand, in breadth about 100 fathoms, and in length sixteen miles. This lagoon communicates with the sea by a very narrow opening, of about twenty fathoms in breadth; but so obstructed by rocks as to be practicable by only the smallest boats. The lagoon itself is very deep, and would form an admirable haven, if a proper entry were formed. But nature has already been so liberal in harbours to the Cochin-Chinese, that they feel no desire or necessity to form others by art and labour. The lagoon or salt lake abounds in fish, which produce great profits to the numerous villages on its banks.

Next morning early we began to ascend the pass beforementioned, of Taysons, and before we reached the breakfasting-place we had killed a hundred monkeys, of a large species, peculiar to the country. Desirous to procure living specimens of this animal to carry to France, it was with great difficulty that I succeeded. In this operation many of them fell; for the more that were wounded the more collected around them; endeavouring to carry off to the woods the dead as well as the wounded. The three young ones we took held so fast round the dead body of their dam, that it required no small labour to detach them. This species of monkey greatly resembles the oran-outang in his stature and inoffensive manners, inhabiting the mountains and the tops of the loftiest trees, living on their fruit. The similarity of this creature to man is strikingly mortifying. His fur is exceedingly fine: the hands and feet are black, the shoulders and legs deep red, the belly white, and the back gray; the face flat and white, the cheeks red, the eyes large and black; some males measured on their hind-legs four feet four inches in height. In the country they are called *venan*, i. e. men of the wood.

In crossing the hills we saw many marks of the wild elephants, and crossing a number of rapid torrents arrived at the summit of the pass at one in the afternoon, being almost always on an ascent. On our way we remarked several large rocks, surmounted by heaps of small stones securing pieces of gilt paper. These were monuments of the gratitude of porters employed in carrying heavy burthens across the mountain, in consequence of vows to the guardian spirits of the place, who had assisted them in accomplishing their task. Halting to take some refreshment in the guard-house on the summit, we there enjoyed a magnificent view of the bay of Tourane under our feet, where our ships looked like walnut-shells.

Resting for an hour and a-half we began to descend, advancing at times faster than we intended; and the road being much obstructed by rocks and stones, we were more fatigued in going down than we had been in going up. At five o'clock we arrived at the guard-house on the sea-shore, where our dinner was ready prepared. When the sun began to disappear behind the hills, we began to shoot the peacocks which are there very numerous. We fell in with very recent tracks of tigers; and we learned from the people of a neighbouring village, that for some time past those animals frequently appeared in that quarter. Snares had been set for them, and three had been sent to the emperor. Fortunately we received this information; otherwise our surgeon would have been caught in a tiger-trap, being drawn towards it by the barking of a dog placed in it to inveigle the tigers. In constructing this trap a double hut is erected, open on all sides, having one entrance closed by a swing-gate, which shuts of itself from within. When the tiger hears the barking of the dog he enters the outer hut, and the gate closes behind him: but he finds the dog in the centre to be still cut off from him by an inner inclosure. The dog trained for this business keeps up a continual noise, until the tiger be within the trap, and then holds his tongue: then the people assemble to kill or secure the ferocious intruder. The tiger of Cochin-China is of the same kind with the royal tiger of Bengal. The forests shelter many different animals, in particular the wild bull, the object of grand hunting parties for the court. Deer, white-horned goats, the rhinoceros, wild-boar, and the elephant, are also very numerous: but the most formidable of all is the tiger, which attacks both man and beast. The only animal he fears, it is said, is the rhinoceros; and in the battles between them, sometimes exhibited in the capital, the rhinoceros is almost always the conqueror. Once a-year a general tiger-hunt takes place, in which more men are killed and wounded, as I was told, than in some of their late battles. The emperor maintains a large body of elephants, to be employed in these hunts as well as in war. Our peacock-shooting was not very successful, for we killed but one; and next morning renewing our operations, we fell in with very fresh marks of tigers:

but we were too numerous to have much to apprehend from their attack. Two men armed, the one with a sabre and the other with a short spear, seldom fail to overcome that terrible animal without any injury. Two men are also sufficient to overcome the elephant, when found at a distance from the flock, as frequently happens, when he is feeding at the roots of the hills. The two hunters, armed with guns of large bore, advance towards the elephant, from opposite points, to within thirty paces of him. Then making the concerted signal, one of them sets up a shout: the elephant, without seeming to be alarmed, raises his head, and looks steadily at the shouter, who fires at his forehead. If the animal neither fall nor be at all wounded, he makes after the hunter, who with great agility escapes. The other hunter, who has followed the elephant, then fires at him behind; the animal turning round at the shot, receives another from the first man. By this reciprocal attack the poor elephant is in time mortally wounded, which often happens at the second or third shot: for the boldness and dexterity of the Cochin-Chinese hunter in this exercise is surprising. The flesh of the elephant is eaten in the country. The trunk and the feet are esteemed peculiar delicacies, and as such are sent to the princes and other great men. I ate of those parts at the table of the mandarin of strangers, and found them pretty good.

Cochin-China is rich in minerals; but only two mines are worked, both for the emperor's account; it being a capital crime to open any other, or even to speak on the subject. I understood, however, that near Phuyenne are some gold mines, so rich that four or five pounds of ore would yield twenty ounces of pure metal. But the government, dreading the effects of European covetousness, employs every method to conceal the situation of the mines.

Returning on-board our ship in the morning, we again went on-shore, to lodgings prepared for us by the Fantou, at Ton-Han. Our next excursion was to the marble rocks and quarries, situated eight miles off in the south-south-east part of the bay. Shooting as we went along, we visited the very curious and beautiful grottos, the work of nature and time. These rocks are not far from the sea, which, it is highly probable, at some remote epoch, covered the whole, although they now rise two hundred fathoms above the water. These rocks are however erroneously named; for they consist not of marble, but of bastard alabaster *(pseudalabastrites)* a translucent gypseous stone, of a very inferior consistency to marble; and it is dressed into different shapes by the inhabitants of the environs. At these rocks, among some bushes, I for the first time saw two humming-birds, whirling about with prodigious rapidity, coming very close to me and uttering a shrill cry, from which I concluded their nest to be near at hand: but we could not discover it. There also I saw what is called the wild cock, certainly the most beautiful bird I had ever seen, and of the same kind with that stated to be found in Pulo Condor and Sumatra. I was unluckily too far off to hit the bird, nor with all my endeavours was it ever in my power to procure one to carry home. In Cochin-China, however, exists another bird, still more extraordinary than the wild cock, unknown I apprehend to all ornithologists, and of which I never saw but a single feather. The emperor himself has not been more fortunate. According to the popular account, this extraordinary creature inhabits the inaccessible mountains of Phuyenne. They call it *kinntrey*, or the genius. It is of the size of a pigeon, having the beak red, the head black, the neck white, the wings a golden yellow, the belly and tail ash-colour. The most remarkable peculiarity is the tail, which is in length above eight feet: the feather which I saw, although the end had been cut off, measured five feet six inches English. Of this bird many marvellous stories are related by the peasants, which must be set down to ignorance and imagination, as well as the report of a race of men with tails, in the southern country of Siampa. Of these extraordinary beings, called moys or wild men, the mandarin of the strangers himself gave me an account from his own ocular examination, while commanding a corps of elephants in that province. One of them he carried to the capital and presented him to the emperor, who sent him back to his own country with many rich presents. My respectable friends the French mandarins had never seen these extraordinary creatures; but they had so often heard their existence affirmed by men of character and probity, that they knew not how to disbelieve the report. The tail was said to be in length about eight inches and a half. Although endowed with speech, as well as with the human figure, the mandarin seemed, I thought, to conceive them to be only irrational animals.

Cochin-China possesses abundance of animals of various sorts, but with the foregoing exceptions, none probably which may not be found in the adjoining countries in the internal parts: for it is naturally but a long narrow range of land, bounded by the sea on the east, and by chains of hills on the west. A skilful naturalist might there probably discover many curious and rare animals, but none of an unknown class. To the botanist a spacious field would be laid open hitherto unexplored; but in the present state and dispositions of the government towards strangers, particularly towards the French, with some precautions easily accessible for men of science. A stranger to botany myself, I have not ventured to enter on what belongs to that subject: I know, however, that the Cochin-Chinese possess various plants, which they employ with success in medicine.

I had the fortune to be in Fay-Fo at the reception of candidates for degrees in learning; for in all the cities of the empire, Gia-Long has established public schools divided into two classes. To the first, all parents are required to send their children as soon as they are seven years of age, to learn to read and write. In the second class, are instructed those destined to follow the profession of letters, who apply to the history of China, as well as to that of their own country; for the two are inseparably connected together: they study also the principles of the philosophy of Confucius, of natural history, and of medicine. At the end of every period of five years, these second schools furnish a certain number of candidates, who repair to the capital, to be examined and admitted into the order of the lettered, by the prince-premier himself, who, as the most learned man in the nation, (in fact probably as much as in rank,) presides in the examination and awards the several prizes. The province of Quan-Nam, in which Fay-Fo is situated, had no fewer than five successful candidates on the occasion, and preparations were making to celebrate by public rejoicings so honourable an event. A feast and a play were to be provided for the visitors, who were to appear in garlands, and the dresses appropriated to their several ranks in letters. Business, however, prevented me from witnessing the whole of the ceremonies. The emperor, besides, had sent for our surgeon to attend one of his daughters, the ninth, who had on one of her hands a swelling which baffled the skill of all the medical men of the court. Since our arrival in the country, our surgeon had vaccinated about fifty children, with virus brought from France between two pieces of glass. The air had however had access to it, and his operations unfortunately took no effect; a disappointment the more distressing, as the small-pox often causes dreadful ravages among the Cochin-Chinese.

At an entertainment in Fay-Fo, given by one of the principal persons of the town, where a number of ladies were present, several widows and young damsels came up to me in succession; offering me their betal to chew. This ceremony I afterwards understood to be the most cordial compliment that could be offered, denoting the readiness of those ladies to enter into holy matrimony with me, without farther investigation of my situation or character. To their compliments, unfortunately lost on me, I made returns by little presents of various articles of French manufacture, handsome if possible, but always of intelligible utility. By this reciprocal gallantry all parties seemed to be quite contented.

Amidst a multitude of agreeable occurrences in Cochin-China, we were exposed to one of a very opposite character. When landing the muskets for the use of government, one of our officers was always present on-shore, by the desire of the mandarins appointed to receive the arms, to see every thing done in order. The examination of the pieces went on satisfactorily, and out of 10,000 only twenty-five were rejected. But those received remained still to be proved, although, through his confidence in us, the emperor had already ordered the whole value to be paid. The proof had gone on for some time, when I was informed that a great number of pieces had burst in the operation. This accident we soon discovered to have been produced by the mode of proof, and not by the quality of the barrels; for in each, the Cochin-Chinese had put an ounce and-a-half of powder, covered by five ounces of moist earth, rammed down with a hammer. By this absurd process, the earth was in fact much more able to resist the explosive force of the powder than any barrel could be. Having pointed out to the proof-men their error, I informed the minister also; offering, at the same time, to make the proper abatement of price for the pieces destroyed, and declaring that it was far from our intention to attempt any deception on the government. The emperor, when acquainted with the business, directed the minister to express his conviction that no imposition had been meditated; that he was satisfied with the explanation given of the accident; and that, as a proof of it, he would intrust me with all his future commissions for France.

According to the old system, all ships from Macao, and all other foreign vessels trading in the ports of Cochin-China, were subject to certain fixed duties, without the least regard to their several sizes and burthen. To do away this practice, equally unjust and absurd, Gia-Long, in the ninth moon of the seventeenth year of his reign, corresponding to October, 1818, issued a regulation that all vessels coming into his ports should be measured. The length was to be taken, and in the middle of it the breadth; on these dimensions the duties were to be exacted. It was also enacted, that for elephants' teeth, rhinoceros' horns, cardamum, cinnamon, pepper, dyeing-woods, ebony, should be paid a duty of five per cent. on the value; eagle-wood and Kinam were not to be imported on any account; the introduction of rice was to be allowed or prohibited, as consumption required; but the exportation of gold, silver, and copper, was strictly forbidden. Timber for ship-building and masts was to pay ten per cent.; all duties were to be cleared before the ship began to take in her cargo, and the piastre was to be received by the government, at the rate of one quan five masses. Sugar was to be duty-free.

It was already mentioned, that one of the French mandarins in Cochin-China, M. Chaigneau, was to embark in the Henry, with his family for France. As a specimen of the dispositions and manner of acting of Gia-Long, may be here introduced an extract of the *shape*, or licence, to leave the country.

"The writing of the emperor, or king Gia-Long, addressed to M. Chaigneau, surnamed Thang, of the imperial family of Nguyen, mandarin of the second order, one of those who enjoy the privilege of penetrating into the inner apartments of the palace, and of approaching the sacred person of his majesty; commander of two ships of the line, of which the one is called *Thocie*, (the happy omen) and the other *Phung*, (the eagle.)

"M. Chaigneau having presented to us a request, stating, that having quitted France in the year 1791, he coasted along before a succession of ports, too numerous to be mentioned, and landed in the province of Gia-Ding, where we then resided, and offered to us his services, which we readily accepted. From that epoch, in all our campaigns, whether by sea or by land, he has always attended us with the greatest fidelity, and faced every sort of danger with unshaken fortitude.

"Now, that by special grace from above, we have triumphed over all our enemies, and enjoy profound peace in our dominions, we are desirous to bestow our highest favour on the same M. C. But as for the space of twenty-six years he has been removed far from his native land, separated from all who are naturally dear to him, and has now expressed his ardent desire once more to revisit his country and his friends; and has prayed us to permit him, with his wife and children, to embark on-board a merchant-ship ready to sail for France, we have acceded to his solicitation in itself so natural and laudable. He is, therefore, hereby authorized to absent himself from our dominions for the space of three years, that is to say, from 1819 to 1821. He is also authorized to embark, for his return to our dominions, 3,000 pieces of merchandize; for which all duties shall be remitted to him, as a token of our more special favour.

"Over and above all these favours, we hereby grant and confirm to him his ordinary emoluments for the ensuing year, in order to prove how highly we value, and how worthily we reward, those strangers who come from quarters far remote, to devote themselves to our service. By so doing they will understand that, in whatever part of the world they may dwell, they are never to forget that we are always their good and kind sovereign, as in times preceding. Thus will they make a due return for the sentiments of love and affection towards them, with which our heart is filled."

Our departure from the bay of Tourane being fixed for the 13th of November, and M. Chaigneau and family being properly accommodated on-board the Henry, we weighed anchor and stood out to sea. The whole ship's company, notwithstanding the unhealthy season of heat and rain, were in perfect health. It is, however, to be understood, that the climate is there not unhealthy; and masters of ships, desirous to maintain their men in good condition may, by a little pains, preserve good health on-board. The slightest indisposition must never, therefore, be neglected, but treated as if it were already a serious illness.

Proceeding on our voyage, we repassed the strait of Sunda, on the 3d of December, having passed by that of Gaspar. We observed the dangerous place, on the north of that island, discovered by the American ship Magdalen. After her no other vessel seems to have observed it, although it lies precisely in the fair-way passage of those coming from the northward; and although several English vessels have purposely searched for it without success. Having had the good fortune to fall in with that dangerous spot, without any accident, we had opportunity to satisfy ourselves of its real existence, and to ascertain its position. That spot then consists of two patches of coral, having only from nine to twelve feet French of water on them, on an extent of 170 toises (182 fathoms) from north-east to south-west, by thirty toises (thirty-two fathoms) from north-west to south-east. Very near to those patches of coral the soundings give 17, 20, and 25 brasses (15, 18, 22 fathoms) of water. When on the spot the peak of Gaspar bears south 8 deg. east by compass, distant eight leagues and one-third.

The correct latitude of the shoal is 1 deg. 58 min. south, and its longitude 104 deg. 4 min. 30 sec. east from Paris, (106 deg. 24 min. 30 sec. east from Greenwich.) We put in at the isle of Bourbon, and continued our voyage on the 8th of January, 1820: on the 14th of the following April we entered the river of Bordeaux.